



LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 443,000

No 63,131

US cash for families of Airbus dead Compensation offered 'out of compassion'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan announced yesterday that the US is to offer compensation to the families of the 290 passengers killed in the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus.

These included not only Iranians, but six other nationalities. Mr Reagan, while believing the actions of the USS Vincennes were justified and defensive, was saddened at the tragic deaths of the innocent victims of this accident.

Security Council debate on the incident. Before the formal announcement, Mr Reagan told reporters during a farewell visit to the White House by President Duarte of El Salvador: "I, from the first, have said that we are a compassionate people. And we all have compassion for the families of those unfortunate people that were on that plane."

WIN £118,000 Portfolio - PLUS NEW - Accumulator. With three daily prize winners yesterday (see page 3) Portfolio Accumulator stands unchanged at £118,000. Prices: page 31

INSIDE Violence and criminal justice: Sir Peter Inbar, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, talks to Ludovic Kennedy. Page 11

INSIDE Japanese arms boost Japan's Self Defence Agency is expected to receive a 6 per cent increase in its budget for the 1989 fiscal year giving Japan the third largest defence budget in the world after the US and the Soviet Union.

Japan's defence budget for 1988 is 3.7 trillion yen (£16 billion). The increase sought by the military would mean Japan's total defence spending exceeds that of Britain, France and West Germany. Last month, Japan reassured South-East Asian countries about its defence spending. Details, page 6

Ulster offer Talks between the IRA's political wing and moderate nationalists in the Social Democratic and Labour Party have been cloaked in secrecy for six months. In an interview with The Times Mr John Hume, the SDLP leader, offers to brief Ulster Unionist leaders on the talks. Page 4

TIMES FOCUS What happens when an old-established boys' school takes in girl pupils? A Special Report on Oakham School seeks the answer. Pages 19-21

INDEX table with categories like Home News, Overseas, Business, Sport, etc.

Labour leader displays solidarity with Tambo



Brotherly embrace: Mr Oliver Tambo, leader of the ANC, greeting Mr Neil Kinnock at a brief meeting in Lusaka yesterday.

Kinnock urges restraint on ANC

From Philip Webster, Lusaka

Mr Neil Kinnock again highlighted his differences with the Prime Minister on South Africa as he held talks with the African National Congress in Lusaka yesterday and had a warm reunion with Mr Oliver Tambo, its president.

As public comments from the ANC leaders confirmed the divisions within its high command over extending its armed struggle to soft or civilian targets, Mr Kinnock cautiously urged restraint. Mrs Thatcher has branded the ANC a terrorist organization.

The Labour leader said that the ANC was well aware of his and his party's hostility to violence in pursuit of political ends and that the road of violence could only end in tragedy for the ANC.

Mr Kinnock, whose remarks fell short of a condemnation of ANC violence, said: "We should not be trading in definitions of violence. Whenever the question of violence by the ANC is considered it has to be understood in the context of the extensive and systematic violence by the South African state both inside and outside."

"Pursuit of the path of violence nevertheless remains in my view unproductive." Mr Kinnock's remarks underlined the dilemma which the proposals of the Umkhonto We Sizwe, the armed wing of the movement, to extend its struggle has placed the ANC's international supporters.

But the day after his outspoken attack on Mrs Thatcher over sanctions, Mr Kinnock underlined his solidarity with the ANC cause by a display of affection for Mr Tambo. Both he and his wife Glynn embraced the ANC leader.

Mr Kinnock was unrepentant about his bitter personal criticism of Mrs Thatcher the day before. He said that the convention of not attacking the Government while abroad belonged to a different age.

It would have been greatly inconsistent not to have criticized Mrs Thatcher when in the frontline states in the same way that he had done many times in Britain.

Thatcher meeting: Mrs Thatcher yesterday met Miss Joyce Mokhele, the sister of one of the Sharpeville Six who are facing execution for the murder of a black councillor in South Africa. However, the Prime Minister had made it clear that she would not appeal to President Botha for clemency until all legal processes had been exhausted.

Oil company to publish report on previous Piper Alpha leaks

By David Sapsted and Tim Jones

The operators of the stricken oil rig Piper Alpha yesterday bowed to mounting pressure over reports of gas leaks before last week's explosion and agreed to publish today an account of previous incidents.

Mr John Brading, Occidental UK's chief executive, who emphatically denied suggestions that warnings on leaks were ignored by the company, said he would publish the reports of any gas incidents that occurred up to two months before the blast that killed 166 people.

In Israel, where he was announcing new drilling in the region, Mr Armand Hammer, head of Occidental, insisted the platform was equipped with every safety device, and was given "a clean bill of health" by safety inspectors.

He said any leaks that may have occurred could not have generated a blast of the intensity experienced last week. "Our people say that whatever leaks there were, were corrected. Anyway, they were not in the place we believe the explosion occurred," Dr Hammer said.

Yesterday, union chiefs announced a meeting later in the week on the explosion and platform workers' fears. Mr Roger Lyons, deputy general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, said that unless the Department of Energy published its report into an explosion on the platform in 1984, he would advise his members to take industrial action.

The unions are expected to press for responsibility on safety to be taken from the Department of Energy and placed with an independent body. The issue of gas leaks before the explosion was first raised by the girl friend of a welder who died on Piper Alpha. She said the welder told her two days before the explosion that

he had reported a leak to a safety officer. Yesterday one of the survivors of the explosion said that he, too, had reported a leak. Mr Robert Ballantyne, aged 45, an electrician from Aberdeen, said he was working in the utility module next to the gas conservation unit when he smelt gas on the Monday before the blast.

"I reported the smell of gas to the safety department, and members informed us to vacate the module until they did a gas test", he said. "About half an hour later there was a tannoy message to tell people working in that module that they could return as there was no longer a gas presence."

There were also suggestions yesterday from another survivor that gas had been detected in the accommodation unit on the day before the disaster. However, Occidental said those incidents could have had nothing to do with the explosion on Wednesday. Mr Gene Grogan, the

company's vice-president in charge of engineering, said it was possible that a small amount of gas containing hydrogen sulphide had been released when routine maintenance was being carried out on Monday. It would have been normal in such circumstances, he said, for men to wear breathing apparatus while carrying out the work.

Three more bodies were recovered from the platform yesterday, bringing the total so far detected to 20. Occidental officials said however that the search for the remaining 146 bodies unaccounted for could take weeks or even months.

Mr Red Adair's team of firefighters was unable to board the rig yesterday because of worsening weather conditions. The company confirmed that only three of the 36 wells on the rig were still burning. Two drilling vessels had been ordered to the area in case it becomes necessary to drill relief wells.

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Gorbachov makes withdrawal offer

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

On the first day of his six-day visit to Poland, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov offered to withdraw Soviet air force units stationed in Eastern Europe and proposed a sweeping "elimination of the asymmetrical Nato fields consisting of conventional armaments between Nato forces and the Warsaw Pact in Europe".

Addressing the Polish Parliament, Mr Gorbachov said the Soviet Union was prepared to "withdraw" air bases in Eastern Europe if the Americans refrain from going ahead with stationing F 16 fighters in southern Italy within the next two years.

He also proposed a "complete exchange" on information about conventional forces stationed behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe. His proposals, however, are unlikely to end deadlocked talks on conventional arms reduction which have been

going on for 10 years in Vienna. Initial response from Nato diplomats was lukewarm. "The data problem has been with us for a long time. It is unlikely to be solved quickly," one said yesterday.

Two dead in blast on liner

From Marin Mediano, Athens

At least two people were feared dead and more than 20 were injured last night when a Greek cruise ship with 570 passengers on board, caught fire after a series of explosions. Most of the passengers on a days cruise on the City of Potos jumped overboard and were picked up by navy barges and helicopters, three miles off the island of Aegina.

It was unclear whether the explosions were bombs or if, as Greek television reported, the bridge had been the target of a terrorist attack by gunmen using grenades and machine guns. Television said that the attackers escaped in a boat.

Car bomb - A car rented by a man using a Lebanese passport was wrecked by two explosions in a suburb of Athens yesterday, killing its occupants and spilling out weapons, ammunition and US banknotes.

Photograph, page 6

Anger over 'single yard' frigate order

By Michael Evans and Richard Ford

The Government announced an order for three more frigates for the Royal Navy yesterday but then faced an angry attack from a major shipbuilding yard after it failed to win a contract for any of the warships.

The order, for three Type 23 anti-submarine warfare frigates, which had generated fierce competition between four rival yards, was awarded solely to Yarrow shipbuilders, on the Clyde, owned by GEC. Last night Mr Robert Easton, chairman and managing director of Yarrow, said that without the order the workforce of 3,800 would have been cut by half by next year.

But last night Swan Hunter, one of the yards that failed to win the order, predicted that 700 jobs would have to go. Mr Alex Marsh, chief executive, then criticised the Ministry of Defence for not sharing out the frigate orders.

He said: "The placing of three frigate orders in one yard will severely damage the competitive tendering policy of the Ministry of Defence. We're concerned that the lead builders in minehunters, submarines and now frigates will have a stranglehold on future competition for their particular products."

A demi-god descends from Heathrow's clouds

By George Hill

The clouds rolled back and the sun burst through. It had been drizzling only a moment before: how had they stage-managed that? A few of the thousand fans waiting on the roof of Terminal 2 at Heathrow Airport knew what they were looking for, and began to shriek knowingly as soon as a dot among the parting clouds resolved itself into an Airbus in Lufthansa blue and grey.

Instantly the cry was taken up all along the line, and the fans at the railings were borne down by others craning forward from behind. "Where is he? What's happening?" they cried with a note of panic, between their shrieks. Nobody in earshot seemed to know. The noise died down, and

frantic spirits from the left-hand end of the roof ran at top speed towards the right-hand end, and vice versa. Wembley, Hounslow and Dag Hammagard had given up their youth this afternoon. London schoolteachers must have been haranguing empty desks. Most of the fans were in their 20s or younger, with a few older mums and dads who had brought rucksacks and pushchairs so that their toddlers should have something to boast to their grandchildren about.

A smaller Lufthansa jet cruised in to land close behind the first, and they shrieked at that, too, just in case. The first plane taxied back to gate 15 where it was surrounded by police cars and fire tenders. Michael Jackson's fans could hardly hear their own screaming above the noise of the aircraft's engines, a hundred yards from where the police had pinned them, out of harm's way and three storeys above the action.

Don't get caught in the remortgage trap

Advertisement for Oriel remortgage service. Includes text: 'DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE REMORTGAGE TRAP', 'YOUR HOME IS A MONEY BOX!', 'Why not use it?', 'There is a huge difference between the market value of your home and your mortgage...' and 'Oriel Finance Ltd 0454 777165'.

Advertisement for Bank Loans. Includes text: 'BANK LOANS AT AN APR OF ONLY 13.8%', 'FROM £10,000 UPWARDS', 'secured on property for home owners and mortgage payers', 'Nothing at all to repay until November', 'DON'T DELAY - ACT STRAIGHT AWAY!', 'FOR QUICK - NO FUSS - PERSONAL SERVICE'.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Narayan appeals over suspension

The Commission for Racial Equality is to be pressed to investigate alleged racial discrimination in the Lord Chancellor's Department after a Bar disciplinary tribunal yesterday ordered Mr Rudy Narayan, the Guyanese barrister, to be suspended from practice for 30 months.

Aids toll rises to 897

A further 29 people died of Aids in the United Kingdom last month, taking the toll to 897. Department of Health and Social Security figures also show the number of cases increased by 57 to 1,598.

Broadmoor dispute

Nurses at Broadmoor hospital in Berkshire began a work-to-rule campaign yesterday after eleven-hour talks to prevent a ban on overtime failed.

Marconi cuts jobs

Nearly 550 job cuts were announced yesterday by Marconi Radar, the electronics company. A spokesman said 450 jobs would be lost because of the closure of its factory at Gateshead.

Fan died in fall

Mr Philip Smith, aged 33, a football supporter who disappeared last month during the European Championships in West Germany, fell 200 ft to his death from a popular viewpoint after he had been drinking.

Ayatollah Khosroshahi

The Sunday Times apologized in the High Court, yesterday for an article by Amir Taheri which accused the former Iranian ambassador to the Vatican, Ayatollah Hadi Khosroshahi, of being the recruiting agent for a terrorist network.

Piper Alpha disaster: Skipper saw rescue craft blown out of water

'It was like seeing napalm burning'

By Michael Horne

The captain of the North Sea standby vessel, Sandhaven, called yesterday for posthumous gallantry medals for two crew members who died rescuing survivors of the Piper Alpha disaster.

Captain Sean Ennis watched helplessly from less than 50 yards away as an explosion blew the ship's inflatable rescue craft out of the water at the feet of the stricken platform, killing the two crew men and six oil workers.

He said at his home in Hull yesterday that he had received a mayday call from the Piper Alpha at 10.10pm last Wednesday and had launched the Atlantic 21 rescue craft carrying three crew members ahead of the Sandhaven.

The craft was there within 10

minutes and the Sandhaven arrived after about 20 minutes", he said.

"We got up to the rig and turned around to back in. I wanted to keep an eye on the rescue boat. They picked up four men out of the water and started to pull away when they saw two more men sliding down pipes from the rig.

"The rescue boat turned around to pick up these two and got one of them. They were picking up the second man when there was a severe explosion.

"The craft was right alongside the legs of the rig. The explosion was like you see napalm burning and it blew right down and engulfed the whole area. Through the flames I could see the silhouette of the craft and then it was gone. That was the last I saw of them. Those poor men

stood no chance. They were the bravest men, and great friends of mine."

The rescue craft crew members who died were Mr Malcolm Storey, aged 39, and Mr Brian Batchelor, aged 42. The third crew member, Mr Ian Letham, survived by clinging to a five-gallon oil can before being rescued by the Maersk Logger.

Captain Ennis, aged 34, who is married with two children, said: "All the fire at the time of the explosion had been on the other side of the rig which was beginning to collapse and there was no indication of what was going to happen.

"The Sandhaven was very close in and the rest of the crew were getting survival gear ready. We were just nudging in, no more than 50 yards away. After that, I was forced to

move the Sandhaven away. It was an inferno on the rig.

He said: "We were in total shock. We just hung around for two or three hours looking for survivors. We had to carry on with our jobs. We got permission to clear the area for lack of crew. It was then the feeling of desolation set in."

"I feel better now, having gone home to my family. But I'll never forget what happened that night. I never dreamed such an inferno was possible.

"The two men who died deserve posthumous gallantry awards and Ian Letham deserves a medal, too."

Captain Ennis, a former trawlerman, who has served in the North Sea for eight years, said: "They were the bravest men you could ever meet and they deserve the recog-

nition. No-one could have asked for an ounce more out of them."

He said that inflatable rescue craft such as the one in which his men died would add a new dimension to North Sea safety if all rigs and platforms were supplied with them.

Captain Ennis said he had obtained permission to give immediate assistance from the installation manager at the Santa Fe 135 exploration rig, five miles away, where his supply and rescue ship was working.

He will make his official report to inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry in Aberdeen today.

The Sandhaven, owned by Haven Shipping, of Glasgow, was on charter to Occidental, operators of the Piper Alpha platform.

Inquiry to examine secret report

By a Staff Reporter

The secret report by Department of Energy safety inspectors into the 1984 explosion on the Piper Alpha rig will be examined during the public inquiry into last Wednesday's catastrophe.

The Department yesterday refused to disclose its contents in advance despite calls from trades union leaders.

About 175 non-essential crewmen aboard the rig were evacuated by helicopter to the nearby emergency support vessel Tharos and four men were treated for minor injuries after an explosion and fire on March 24, 1984.

The blast occurred in a gas-processing module, shattering windows and doors in the accommodation area and bringing down the roof of the recreation room. The fire which followed took an hour to extinguish and was confined to the module.

There were 236 men on Piper Alpha, a similar figure to last week, although the platform is designed to accommodate 200.

Occidental, which ordered an internal inquiry, said the explosion happened in a processing area where natural gas liquids are separated from dry gas. Copies of the 1984 report were kept by the Department of Energy and Occidental, which owns the platform.

A list of "action points" was sent to the oil company by safety officers, but the inspector felt prosecution was unnecessary and this is why the report was never made public.

Wind-blown Adair is confident

By David Sapsted

The latest attempt by Red Adair's team to cap the blazing wells aboard the twisted remains of Piper Alpha were thwarted again yesterday as 35-knot winds lashed the stricken platform.

Conditions on the drilling module - the quarter of the platform that remains above sea-level after last Wednesday's explosion - were described as "pretty dreadful" by an Occidental executive.

A video film shot by the two-man team accompanying the Texas firefighter shows a buckled mass of oil-covered debris. Two wells still shoot flames, belching dense black smoke high into the air, while a third burns less fiercely.

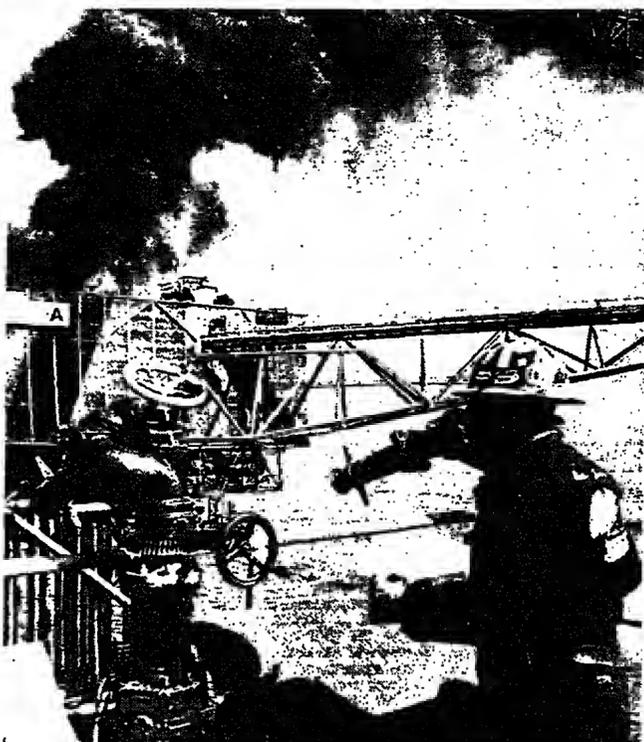
Elsewhere, smaller flames flicker from broken valves while other pieces of precision engineering lay broken and useless. The platform of the drilling module tilts at an angle of about 45 degrees.

Mr Henry Raymond and Mr Kraus Bri, who are part of the Adair team, have been manhandling wreckage into a crane bucket for return to the support vessel, Tharos, or attaching chunks of a tonne or more to a grapple.

Conditions have been worsened by the need for the Tharos constantly to rain seawater on the structure to keep it cool.

Adair - who dislikes 'Mr' let alone his first name, Paul - scrambled on to the oil-slicked deck, clinging to a rope, in a feat defying his 73 years, early last Sunday. Boarding the platform has been impossible since Sunday afternoon, but the removal of debris by crane has continued.

Adair has monitored every step of the operation and he said yesterday that the task of



Red Adair on the Tharos yesterday as a crane lifts wreckage from the burning platform.

clearing wreckage from around the 36 well heads was "going pretty good in our favour" in spite of the weather. He did not know how long the job of capping the well pipes, either mechanically or

with a non-inflammable liquid, would take. "We are going as fast as possible and that is about all I can tell you. We will stay here till we finish. We have got everything we need like well head equip-

ment. We have got all that lined up so unless something strange comes up we are in pretty good shape." Occidental has moved in two drilling ships to sink relief wells if the operation fails.

Families press workers to resign

Oil workers from Piper Alpha's sister rig - who watched helplessly last week as 166 of their colleagues and, in some cases, relatives died on the burning platform - returned to Aberdeen yesterday, some vowing never to work offshore again.

Occidental, operators of both the Piper and Claymore platforms, laid on special flights for workers who wanted to return home.

Far out in the North Sea yesterday, oil workers on a Shell platform said they, too, would like to quit because "wages, terms and conditions of employment and safety have taken a backward step."

However, like many of the men flying in and out of Aberdeen yesterday, the crew on the Dunlin Alpha oil rig, located more than 100 miles west of Shetlands, said they had little choice but to keep working offshore.

Mr Campbell Reid, off-shore organiser for the Manufacturing, Science and Financial Union, said yesterday: "The men coming in from the rig, particularly from the Claymore, are getting enormous pressure from their families not to go back."

"At the same time, a lot of these guys have built their lifestyle around working offshore. They have very little option but to go back."

The dilemma for oil workers in Aberdeen is particularly acute. The city may be built on granite but its life-blood is oil and, in Granpian, 45,000 jobs rely on the industry. Letters, page 15

Advertisement for Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Finance Company (Jersey) Limited. It features a headline 'WHEN YOU'RE WORKING ABROAD YOU'LL NEED SOUND FINANCIAL ADVICE.' and a form titled 'DON'T FORGET TO SEND US A POSTCARD' with fields for name, address, and telephone number. The text describes services like expatriate advisory, deposits, and mortgages.

Kensington by-election

Labour in damage limitation exercise

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday attempted to limit the political damage caused by highly critical remarks of its campaign in the Kensington by-election by its former candidate.

A statement from Mr Ben Bousquet, a local black councillor, was read at the party's daily press conference, claiming that his comments on Labour's effort to win the seat had been distorted, but which did not dispute their accuracy.

Mr Bousquet, dropped by the local parliamentary party after contesting the last two general elections, said Labour was "committing suicide" in the contest and that in the north of the constituency there was "no by-election".

Mr Bousquet said in a personally signed statement that his comments had reflected his concern at the lack of visible support on the streets. The statement added

that he had signed the nomination papers of the party's candidate Mrs Ann Holmes. It said: "The Labour party is not committing suicide. It is winning in Kensington. I am voting Labour. I am campaigning for Labour and anyone who says otherwise is desperate for votes and living in dreamland."

The controversy over Mr Bousquet's remarks threatened to overshadow a final attempt by senior Labour politicians to inject some "razzamatazz" into the party's campaign.

Mr William Goodhart, the Social and Liberal Democrat candidate, seized on Mr Bousquet's comments in an effort to boost his own campaign and try to create a last minute bandwagon for the newly merged party. He said Mr Bousquet had exposed the hollowness of Labour's campaign and shown that the party could not win Kensington. "Mr Bousquet has blown

the gaff and Labour are suffering. Their support, already softened by repeated blows over defence and the leadership, is now crumbling rapidly," he added.

Labour tried to deflect attention from Mr Bousquet's statement with a demand that the Prime Minister condemn controversial landlord Mr Nicholas Hoogstraen, and with strong criticism of Government policies on housing, health and the poll tax. Mr Hattersley, the deputy leader, said the property speculator was the "natural product of Thatcherism".

His remarks were the latest in a series attacking the morality of present Conservative policies, and warning of the "damage which Thatcherite Conservatism has done to the fabric of our society, the consequences of the devil take the hindmost philosophy which modern Conservatism represents." Mr Hattersley said: "Mr

Hoogstraen is the natural product of Thatcherism. He is the free market philosophy at its most vicious. For him individualism means high rents, dilapidated flats and tenants unable to defend themselves against his tyranny because they are weak."

The by-election on Thursday has been caused by the death of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, who held the seat for the Conservatives at the General Election with a majority of 4,447.

As the campaign continued, the Prime Minister and politicians from across the party divide paid tribute to Sir Brandon at a memorial service in St Margaret's, Westminster. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, and the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill gave readings. General election 1987: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C) 12,212; Ben Bousquet (L) 5,787; Mr Goodhart (S) 6,379; Mr F. Shorter (Green) 1,147. Total votes 25,525. Mr Rhys Williams (C) 5,447. Election 48,212.

Industry 'cleared' on cancer clusters Whitehall chief to abide by the rules

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A survey has cleared industry in North Humberside of responsibility for childhood cancer clusters in villages West of Hull.

East Yorkshire Health Authority commissioned the report by Dr Ray Cartwright, director of leukaemia research at Leeds University, when it was revealed earlier this year that eight children in the villages of Willerby, Anlaby, and Kirkella had died from cancer-related diseases in the previous 12 years. Radiation emissions from the nearby Capper Pass smelting works were blamed.

Unexplained cancer clusters were also found on a North Hull housing estate and in Holderness, Humberside.

Although the report clears local industry of causing leukaemia, Dr Cartwright and his team found an unexplained number of brain tumours in both adults and children which appear to have a geographically-based relationship. It recommends a

national investigation of environmental factors. The two most scientifically favoured theories for leukaemia clusters relate to local variations in natural sources of irradiation and this required further investigation, it said.

The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment, which claimed that the Dounreay nuclear power station was responsible for the cluster of leukaemia cases in the area around the plant, has ordered an inquiry into the possibility that radio waves may be to blame.

The order follows recent information showing that four of the affected children live within 300 yards of each other. They also live on the highest point of the Pennyland housing estate in Thurso, North Scotland, where most of the cancers were found, beneath the path of high-powered radio beam emissions from the nearby Fors US naval base.

A senior Civil Servant has given MPs and the Comptroller and Auditor General a written undertaking that he will never again seek to undermine a National Audit Office investigation of his department's work.

Sir Brian Hayes, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, has sent Mr John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, a letter confirming that he will strictly observe rules governing appearances before the Commons public accounts committee.

In April, Sir Brian appeared before the committee to answer questions on a mildly critical audit office investigation into the Alvey Programme, a government initiative to promote information technology in Britain. However, MPs on the committee believe that just before he appeared, the Department of Trade and Industry delib-

erately gave briefings to the press, undermining the audit office investigation.

Sir Brian introduced fresh evidence in the form of an article in a specialist magazine, which one MP suggested might have been deliberately inspired by the department.

Correction

Cambridge colleges other than Trinity College are not able to contribute to the new Isaac Newton Trust Fund established by Trinity. Mr Michael McCrum, vice-chancellor of the university, explained yesterday. A report in yesterday's Times was mistaken in suggesting that this was possible.

By the Times, January 1988: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C) 12,212; Ben Bousquet (L) 5,787; Mr Goodhart (S) 6,379; Mr F. Shorter (Green) 1,147. Total votes 25,525. Mr Rhys Williams (C) 5,447. Election 48,212.

Patients are 7 times more likely to die in some hospitals

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Patients are seven times more likely to die in some hospitals than others, according to a league table of mortality rates published yesterday.

The table, being submitted to the Prime Minister to be considered in the review of the health service, shows that one in seven patients admitted to hospitals in Halton health authority in Merseyside fails to leave hospital alive.

In Bloomsbury health authority, in central London, however, only one in 50 patients die in their hospital beds.

The analysis of mortality data, published by the Centre for Health Economics at York University for the first time nationally, suggests that some consultants are better than others and that some hospitals offer safer treatment than others.

The researchers point out that many factors have to be taken into consideration when comparing data, but they argue that instead of comparing efficiency between hospitals, the Government should be looking at standards of care.

Mr Paul Kind, a research fellow, said that when he allowed for demographic and case mix factors, Halton dropped out of the 10 worst districts because most of the patients admitted to hospital were over 65.

An analysis of standardized death rates when this is taken into account shows that the most "dangerous" places to go into hospital are North-west Surrey, North-west Hertfordshire and Grimsby.

One in 50 per cent more likely to die in these places than in hospitals with average mortality rates, and three times more likely to die than in the "safest" hospitals, found in Harrow and Bloomsbury.

Doctors have been opposed to the publication of death rates because it says that patients will be too frightened to go into hospital with high mortality rates even when there is a good explanation.

Some diseases and operations, for example, have a high death rate merely because procedures are complicated and patients are gravely ill.

The York research shows for example that death rates are highest - about 18 per cent - for patients diagnosed with heart or circulatory disease.

The average death rate for infectious diseases throughout the country is 2.48 per cent, but in West Midlands the rate is 1.58 per cent, almost a quarter of the rate in East Anglia, which is 5.61, double the national rate.

Mr Kind's examination of death rates per consultant specialty shows wide variations between districts in certain specialties.

For example death rates among geriatric admissions exceed 20 per cent in all regions, but the highest rate is in East Anglia, 29.6 per cent.

Mersey with 12.6 per cent has the highest death rate among general medicine admissions, and 4.02 per cent among general surgery compared with Oxford, 9.4 per cent and 2.39 per cent respectively.

Last night Professor Alan Maynard, director of the Centre for Health Economics, said that until there was more information about health outcomes, no government could decide how best to spend its money.

Hospital deaths - the Missing Link: Measuring Outcome in Hospital Activity Data (Centre for Health Economics, York University, YO1 5DD; £5).

Death Rates in English Health Authorities

Authority	Cases	Deaths	Crude Rate	Expected Deaths	Mortality Ratio
Highest mortality rate in the country					
NW Herefordshire	1,828	108	5.9	71.5	1,210
NW Surrey	1,073	100	9.3	66.7	1,500
Grimsby	1,930	124	6.4	87.7	1,414
Richmond/Twickenham					
Rochampton	1,253	102	8.1	73.8	1,282
SW Devon	1,010	86	8.4	61.7	1,378
Somerset	9,121	74	7.4	149.7	1,252
St Helena/Koonoway	2,544	176	6.9	131.1	1,343
Wirral/Hawesley					
Brentwood	3,900	285	7.3	222.9	1,223
Bassetlaw	968	76	7.9	57.7	1,319
Chorley/S Ribble	264	24	9.1	18.2	1,318
Lowest mortality rate in the country					
Harrow	2,202	75	3.4	129.9	0.577
Bromsgrove/Fedditch	988	33	3.3	41.2	0.691
Bloomsbury	5,823	138	2.4	205.6	0.644
Central Manchester	3,722	106	2.8	151.0	0.685
S Manchester	1,923	229	4.2	343.9	0.695
E Surrey	1,729	58	4.0	94.0	0.734
Herefordshire	1,517	72	4.7	36.6	0.745
Hereford	1,676	84	5.0	112.4	0.748
Northampton	6,335	241	3.8	292.3	0.752
Hammerhead/Fulham	4,963	208	4.2	275.3	0.758

Ministerial seminar resolves disputes

Television's future agreed

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A ministerial seminar held in a quiet Hampshire market town yesterday cleared the way for the Government's far-reaching White Paper on broadcasting, due to be published in late August.

After more than a year's debate within Whitehall, often marked by in-fighting between the Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Douglas Hurd organised the four-hour meeting in Silchester, where "broad agreement" was reached on key issues affecting the future of television in Britain.

The Home Secretary hoped a seminar in a rural retreat would succeed where the Cabinet subcommittee on broadcasting, chaired by the Prime Minister, had failed. Last night his mission to reach agreement on a series of coherent proposals for a policy blueprint appeared to have been successful.

"The meeting examined the options and carried forward discussions", a statement said. "It was a thoroughly useful meeting which reached broad agreement on the main issues, setting the foundations for the White Paper. Final decisions, of course, will be taken by ministers before the White Paper is finalized."

Mr Hurd was joined at the meeting by Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Mr Timothy Reaton, the Home Office minister with responsibility for broadcasting; Professor Brian Griffiths, head of the policy unit at 10 Downing Street; and Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P&O chairman and a special policy adviser to the DTI. The Treasury was



Lord Young attended top-level talks yesterday.

not represented at the talks. The team concentrated on two areas: the future of ITV - including the number of regional stations after 1992 and the likely use of competitive tendering - and the options for additional television services such as microwave television, the creation of a fifth national channel, the use of "night hours" and cable and satellite developments.

The paper which will be produced as a result of yesterday's discussions and forwarded to the Cabinet subcommittee is likely to provide the basic framework for the White Paper.

After receiving endless submissions, proposals and documents from outside bodies, ministers have now decided "to draw the line and not wait for the next idea to come in". Mr Richard Dunn, managing director of Thames Television, yesterday agreed to become the new chairman of the ITV Association, the trade body which represents Britain's 15 regional stations. He accepted the two-year post only after receiving a commitment from fellow ITV chiefs about the future direction of the association.

Debut for Amadeus Piano Trio



The Amadeus Piano Trio, successor to the Amadeus Quartet disbanded after the death of its viola player Peter Schidlöf, makes its London debut tonight in the City of London Festival. It comprises Norbert Brainin, violinist and former Quartet leader; Martin Lovett, Quartet cellist; and a newcomer in Arnaldo Cohen, the pianist (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Police beat up fans in van, QC says

Three terrified Chelsea supporters got a taste of football violence at the hands of the police, Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Oliver Farrer and Mr Keith Huxley were beaten up in the back of a police van before

being arrested on trumped up charges, Mr James Stewart, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Four members of Northumbria police's special patrol group deny 17 charges of wounding, assault, perjury and false imprisonment. One of them, PC Graham Clark, aged 29, is also charged with

attempting to pervert the course of justice by smashing his head into a wall and blaming the injury on one of the arrested fans.

Mr Stewart said PC Clark then rubbed the raw wound with matchbox sandpaper to make it worse. Then PC

Keith Palin, aged 30, and PC George Laybourn, aged 33, "put their heads together to support Clark's story", Mr Stewart said.

Mr Stewart said a prison van driver who was present when PC Clark injured himself came forward. The trial continues today.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Boon for first baby

Yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 was shared between three winners, who will each receive £1,333.

Mrs Linda Danber, aged 36, a building society manager from Oxton, Merseyside, is expecting her first child in October and will spend her prize on it.

"It's a big bonus", she said. "I will go on maternity leave in eight weeks' time, and then I can start concentrating on the baby. Perhaps now it can have a four-wheeled pram after all."

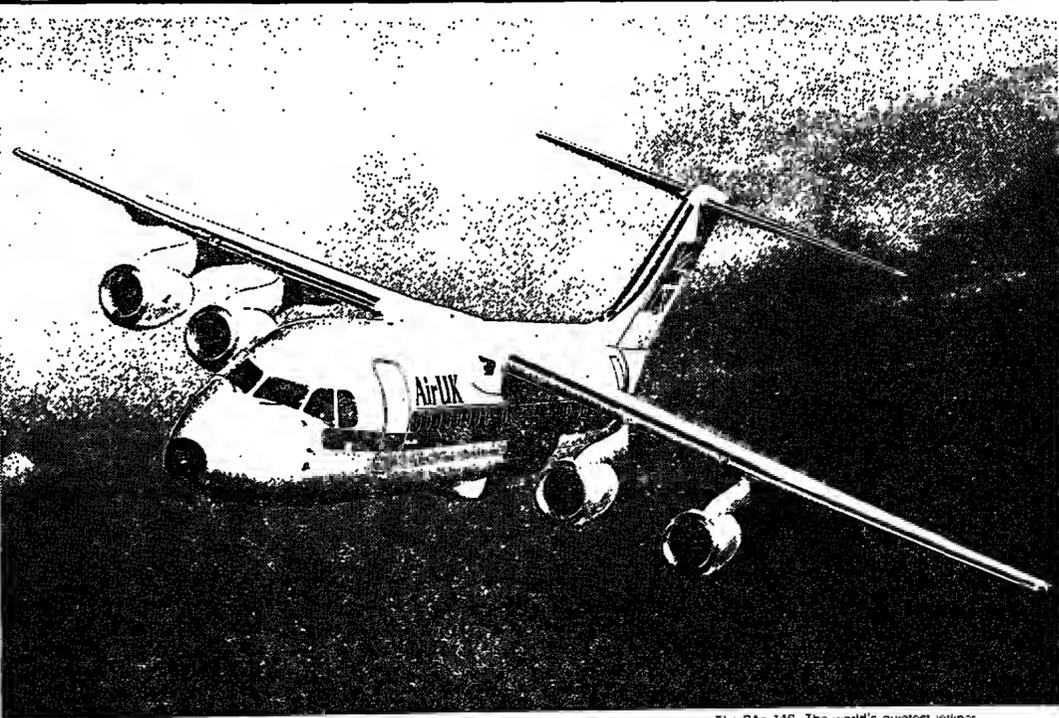
Mr Peter McNamara, aged 52, of Woodside Park, north London, hopes to use his winnings on household repairs, and perhaps go on holiday. He is a supplies officer for the National Health Service.

"I am delighted", he said. "It's a wonderful surprise at this time of the year. Of course, there are always so many mundane things to tend to that the money will be a great help."

The third winner is Mr Charles Revell, aged 37, an accountant from Sudbury, Suffolk. He intends investing most of his share on the stock market.



Mrs Linda Danber: money will be spent on baby.



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'Pub' pupils fate uncertain

By David Tytler, Education Editor

The future of 22 children who have been attending a makeshift school in a public house since September was in the balance yesterday, as two mothers began a High Court action on behalf of more than 20 families against their local education authority.

The parents wanted their children to attend the mainly-white Overthorpe Church of England School or Thornhill School in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

But they were told by Kirklees Education Authority that they must enrol at Headfield Church of England School, West Yorkshire, where 85 per cent of the pupils are Asian. The parents claim the authority has acted unlawfully.

In their written application, Mrs Sandra Lister and Mrs

Ann Littlewood, both of Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, said that the council issued a document setting out a policy for improving race relations in schools.

This led to the introduction of the Planned Admission Limit (PAL) to reduce classroom racial imbalances.

The parents claim that the limits for Overthorpe and Thornhill were fixed artificially low for last September to force white pupils to attend Headfield.

They also argue that the council, by refusing admission to preferred schools, is in breach of its duty under the Education Act, and that it is operating a discriminatory policy against white children contrary to the Race Relations Act.

Miss Elizabeth Appleby, for the parents, told Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice McCullough, that no-one

knew what would happen to the children while the deadlock continued.

The parents had been presented with an "unreal choice" when they were sent a form with three schools on it, asking them to state their preference. The fact was that only Headfield was available on the authority's figures.

The Director of Education for Kirklees, Mr Peter Davies, had prepared a report indicating that there was room at the schools and that there should be a decision in favour of the parents. But no evidence had been submitted by Mr Davies.

The parents originally accused the authority of failing to observe the 1944 Education Act ruling that school should begin with an act of Christian worship, but the court was asked yesterday to extend the charge to a complaint about lack of Christian instruction. The hearing continues today.

defended divorce cases were held in open court.

Mr Sharma has refused to consent to a divorce after two years' separation, or to file his own petition for divorce on her admitted adultery. He was ordered recently to leave the former family home at Lanes End, Norton, Suffolk.

If he successfully defends the action, Miss Seagrove must wait a further three years to seek a decree on the grounds of five years' separation without consent. The hearing continues today.

Actress's divorce action contested

Miss Jenny Seagrove, the actress, began a High Court action yesterday to obtain a divorce from her husband, Madhav Sharma, an actor-director.

Miss Seagrove, aged 30, alleges that Mr Sharma, aged 44, has behaved so unreasonably that the marriage has irretrievably broken down and she finds it intolerable to live with him.

Mr Sharma denies the allegations and that the marriage has broken down. He seeks a decree of judicial separation on the grounds of

her adultery with Mr Michael Winner, the film director.

Miss Seagrove, of Napier Close, West Kensington, west London, married Mr Sharma in May, 1984. They separated in July, 1986.

Miss Seagrove is represented by Mr Alan Ward, QC, in the Family Division hearing before Judge Callman.

Mr Sharma, who is representing himself, was refused a request for evidence to be given in closed session. Judge Callman said justice and the law demanded that

Vanishing school-leavers mean companies must retrain older staff to provide new skills

Fowler alerts firms on loss of a million young people

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Government is warning employers that Britain is steadily running out of young people and if they do not take immediate action they face serious recruitment difficulties.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said there would be one million fewer school-leavers in 1995, and those who are available would be like gold dust.

He was launching the first in-depth study of the implications for employers of fewer people in the labour market. It disclosed that most of the employers are unaware of the big reductions that are looming.

"We are moving into a period of massive demographic change", Mr Fowler said. "Our labour force will increase hardly at all during the 1990s."

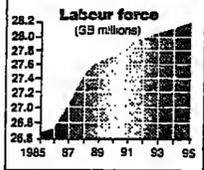
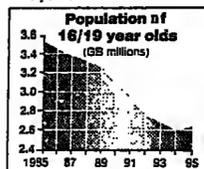
Mr Fowler said all that meant that employers who were alert to change and were ready to act would adapt successfully, but those who were not were likely to find themselves beset by recruitment and retention problems.

The survey, by the National Economic Development Of-

fee and the Training Commission, showed that only one in seven employers was well informed about the trends when the research was done in the spring.

The remainder were either unaware of the reductions in the numbers of young people entering the labour market or seriously underestimated them.

One employer in 10 believed that the numbers were likely to increase over the next five years.



The Government is launching a television and press advertising campaign to make employers more aware that between now and 1995 the number of 16 to 19-year-olds will fall by nearly one million to 2,600,000.

That is a 23 per cent drop over the next seven years. During the same period, 16 to 24-year-olds in the labour force will fall by 1.2 million, a decline of one fifth.

Mr Fowler said: "Young people are traditionally employers' main source of new recruits. In future employers will need to train and retrain existing adult employees to a far greater extent than ever before."

The decline is likely to be most pronounced in the North-west, Scotland, North and West Midlands but the effects were likely to be greater in regions with the most buoyant labour markets, particularly the South-east.

While the numbers fall, the total civilian labour force will continue to grow. Between 1987 and 1995 it is projected to rise by more than 900,000. More than four in five of the net additions will be women.

many returning to work after raising families.

The report underlines the need for employers to look to married women "returners" to help them to overcome the shortage. The Government predicts their numbers in the labour force will increase substantially.

The report also says that employers must take on more long-term unemployed and less well-qualified young people, where in-company training could help them to fill places previously reserved for better qualified entrants.

Mr Fowler said it was vital that employers should change their training strategies. Because of the shortage in school leavers they would have to look to the older employees.

The report says that employers had to increase their attractiveness to young people seeking jobs through improved school/industry liaison and better training and career prospects.

The report says employers would have to look to the unemployed; family women; former employees; and experienced workers who had retired.



Mr Fowler issuing a warning yesterday to employers that they will soon be running out of young people.

Sir John Cassels, director general of NEDO, said the worst affected would be those in manufacturing industry.

Merseyside is facing England's biggest percentage drop in young people - down 32.39 per cent by 1995, Mr

Peter Rylance, the Training Commission's area manager, said yesterday.

Young People and the Labour Market: A Challenge for the 1990s (NEDO Books, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QX; £8).

Over-40s 'not over the hill'

By Our Employment Affairs Correspondent

More companies are recruiting executives under the age of 40, but those who recruit them agree that the older person's executive skills improve, rather than decline, with age.

A survey carried out by MORI on behalf of British United Provident Association (Bupa) was presented at a symposium in London yesterday entitled "Over the Hill at 40?"

It showed that 73 per cent of recruitment specialists reported employers wanted their new executives to be under 40. Mr Roger Stubbs, who carried out the survey for MORI, said business in general was more geared now to younger people than it was in the past.

He said only one in 10 personnel directors agreed that youth was generally more important than experience and two thirds actively disagreed. "It is a case of going along with the fashion and playing the numbers game", he said.

"Each case ought to rest with the individual. While the average 30-year-old is sharper than the average 50-year-old, you are certainly not over the hill at 45."

Managers from recruitment and executive search com-

panies were given a list of 18 characteristics and were asked to say if they improved or declined with age. Age scored strongly on the ability to delegate, the ability to cope with change, the ability to manage others, loyalty and the ability to take responsibility.

Other characteristics which improved with age were "not panicking" and "keeping the right balance between work and home life".

Mr Stubbs said that one characteristic said to decline with age was "performance", although only 33 per cent of respondents thought it did while 20 per cent said it did not. Almost half the people questioned said age made no difference to performance at work.

Motivation was felt to be something which declined rather than improved with age, as was creative thinking, although the margins were not great.

Drive, or the ability to make things happen, was very much regarded as a youthful trait. Two thirds said it declined with age and only one in 10 thought it improved.

Significantly, the survey says, nearly two thirds of the personnel officers believed that health declined with age.

Ulster debate 'could produce ceasefire'

SDLP to renew Sinn Fein talks

By Paul Vallely

The Social and Democratic Labour Party is to continue talks with Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA, in spite of growing outrage over terrorism in Northern Ireland.

Mr John Hume, the SDLP leader, said yesterday he would refuse to break off talks, although his party faces renewed demands to do so since the killing of Warrant Officer John Howard in Belfast on Friday, the 400th British soldier to die since "the troubles" began in 1969.

Mr Hume told *The Times* that his discussions with Sinn Fein represented one of the most significant and positive developments in the province in the past two decades.

He believes the negotiations, over which both sides have maintained strict secrecy for six months, may bring an end to terrorism in the province in the long term.

The debate, he said, represented the first real attempt to tackle the causes of unrest in Northern Ireland, rather than the symptoms.

"I believe the Sinn Fein group participating is committed to the exploration that's taking place. The talks are genuine and serious."

"We are sitting face to face with people who have not sat face to face before. That very act in itself is different and means that what is happening is being taken seriously."

Mr Hume, anxious not to jeopardize the process, was reluctant to divulge details of the talks. However, reliable sources said the SDLP had adopted "the theology of republicanism" to confront Sinn Fein with the internal contradictions of the IRA's current position.

Much of the debate centres around Britain's motives in

"Will the British Army be prepared to send its men out to risk their lives for something the Government has announced will be abandoned?"

"Mentally at least, they would withdraw to their barracks, leaving a political vacuum."

"The two communities would then withdraw behind barricades in their own territory, creating a number of no-go areas like those in Beirut."

"The 12,000 armed members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the 8,000 armed members of the Ulster Defence Regiment would find there was no middle ground and would revert to their old sectarian sympathies."

"What would happen to the vulnerable Catholic community then? It would be a recipe for disaster."

The document suggests the IRA should reconsider its



Mr John Hume: trying to tackle causes of unrest.

methods, unless they are more sacred than its cause.

The debate between the SDLP and Sinn Fein has already borne some fruit.

The process is about planting seeds for the future

Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein believes the British still see a strategic value in remaining in the province. The SDLP believes the British would happily leave under the right circumstances.

The Sinn Fein team has apparently told the SDLP that if they were convinced of that, it would alter IRA attitudes considerably.

A position paper presented by Mr Hume to Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, catalogues the cost of violence in Northern Ireland in terms of deaths, imprisonment and the loss of jobs caused by damage to the economy.

It points out that the main burden falls on the working-class Catholics Sinn Fein represents.

The SDLP document says that the IRA, through its strategy of a war of attrition against the security forces, is condemning its own supporters to another decade of "harassment" by the security forces.

It suggests that the Provisionals have not thought through the consequences of their demand for a unilateral British troop withdrawal.

"If the British announce one Monday that they will be withdrawing on that day five years hence, what will happen on Tuesday?" SDLP sources asked.

At a recent "glasnost" conference in Belfast, Sinn Fein delegates discussed the "internal contradictions" between violence and their political work.

Afterwards, Mr. Mitchell McLoughlin, one of the most prominent of the new Provisional thinkers, acknowledged that the consensus was clearly in favour of broadening Sinn Fein's political base and reassessing its attitude to the SDLP.

"The process is about planting seeds for the future", one insider said.

The "glasnost" debate within Sinn Fein is expected to be carried forward to its next policy-making conference in Dublin next January, but it will probably not be until the next annual meeting that any changes will become official policy.

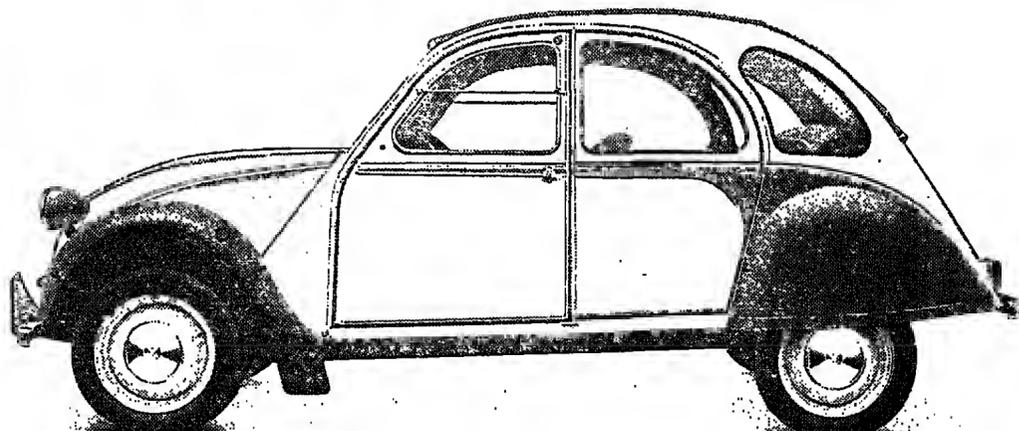
"It usually takes the Provisionals a couple of years to assimilate and adopt new ideas."

"That's how long it took Mr Adams to get through the decision for Sinn Fein to end its policy of not standing in general elections in the South", one IRA observer said.

"But by 1990, we could be talking about Gerry Adams taking his seat in Westminster, wider social and political action by Sinn Fein in the North, a broad pan-nationalist alliance between them and the SDLP and Fionnuala Hill, and possibly even an IRA ceasefire." *Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14*

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Barristers consider 'no win, no fee' offer to defendants

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Barristers in England and Wales are to consider basing their fees for certain civil cases on the results.

The Bar has set up a working group of practising barristers to examine the implications of contingency fees. The group will study American experience.

The inquiry, announced by Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar, takes further a recommendation of the recently published Civil Justice Review for a re-examination of the ban on such arrangements.

Growing interest in American-style contingency arrangements coincides with the launching by a Scottish solicitor of his own company to take on personal injury and accident claims on a "no win, no fee" basis. Mr Frank Lefevre intends to form a network of firms throughout the United Kingdom.

The working group set up by the Bar, which is to be chaired by Mr Francis Ferris, QC, will consider arrangements by which a lawyer is paid only if he is successful on behalf of his client. For example, if the client loses the lawyer will

receive nothing, but, if he wins the client will pay to the lawyer costs assessed by the court which he is awarded against the losing party.

The group will also study other arrangements by which the lawyer is paid a proportion of the money recovered or preserved for the client in litigation.

The group will consider the changes that would be necessary in the law and in the rules of the profession to allow contingency arrangements.

A key issue is the advantages or disadvantages to the public. This would include the position of successful defendants of a claim by a plaintiff who was not able to meet an award of costs against him.

If the system were ever implemented, part of the gamble of going to law would be switched from the client to the barrister, who would be financially backing his own judgment that the case had a reasonable chance of success.

Mr Johnson said: "This is a very difficult issue which we are approaching with a completely open mind. There are strong arguments on both sides". A contingency fee

system had operated in America for many years although "it is by no means certain that they would be appropriate in our rather different system of justice". It was obviously a matter which was due for a fresh look, Mr Johnson said.

The Law Society is also preparing a report for the autumn on responses to a consultation document which examined three types of funding of litigation.

One is the straightforward "no win, no fee" approach. A second type would be a legal aid fund financed by contingency fees: the litigant would get support from the fund on condition that if he won his case he would contribute a proportion of his winnings to the fund.

The third would be a fixed cost scheme. Instead of contributing a part of the winnings at the end of the case, the litigant would put money "up front" at the beginning.

That would in effect be a premium in a form of insurance against losing. The money would also go towards subsidizing people who lost cases.

Biker prepares for lion dance



Driver Kan Kit Keung, of 29 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport Motorcycle Display Team, working on a motorized lion dance which will be performed at the Royal Tournament in London from July 13 to 30 (Photograph: Bryn Colton).

Air UK wins flight routes to Scotland

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air UK, the Stansted-based carrier with a network of services in Britain, has been granted a licence to operate routes between Gatwick, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Civil Aviation Authority ruled yesterday that Air UK should take over the former British Caledonian routes, surrendered by British Airways.

Mr Stephen Hanscombe, managing director of Air UK, said last night that the decision was "a feather in the cap" of Air UK, a subsidiary of British and Commonwealth Shipping which was formed in 1980 and in which the Dutch airline KLM has a 14.9 per cent stake.

Air UK will operate four services a day on each route, and will hire additional staff to launch the flights in October.

The authority also granted a licence to Dan Air yesterday to fly between Gatwick and Manchester, and formally gave approval to British Airways to carry passengers travelling on international services on the same route.

The authority said its ruling was "in line with the policy of encouraging a multi-airline industry".

Insurance plan proposed for disaster victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

A "no fault" compensation scheme aimed at victims of disasters such as the Bradford stadium fire and based on the private insurance market was proposed yesterday by a leading solicitors firm.

Under the scheme, companies and public bodies would buy personal insurance for visitors to their premises which

would be paid out automatically after an accident. Negligence would not have to be proved. The scheme, devised by Davies Arnold and Cooper, solicitors for the North-west Water Authority in the Abbeystead explosion case, won support from top insurers.

Mr Alan Fisher, a partner with Davies Arnold and Cooper, said it took seven

years on average to settle a personal injury case in Britain. The Abbeystead case cost £7 million, but only £3 million went in damages to victims. Firms would adopt the scheme out of self-interest. "Big companies spend millions of pounds on advertising. If they have an Abbeystead or a Bradford, no amount of millions will ever replace their public standing", he said.

Countryside development

20% rise in rural tourism planned

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A scheme to increase spending by tourists in the countryside by 20 per cent over the next four years was launched yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment.

The scheme is the brainchild of the English Tourist Board, Mr Duncan Bluck, the board's chairman, said in London yesterday. "Rural economies faced with change or decline can diversify through tourism and benefit from this thriving industry". He said that Mr Fowler's support demonstrated government recognition of its potential.

Tourism was worth an estimated £3,000 million a year to the rural economy, and land released from agricultural production offered big opportunities for leisure development.

In addition to attracting new investment, the board wanted to introduce more training schemes to improve management and marketing, raise standards at existing attractions, and improve and

extend accommodation, particularly in public houses and on farms.

Development funds worth £13 million were available from the board this year, and rural tourism would be one of the priorities, Mr Bluck said.

The scheme is supported by the Rural Development Commission, the Countryside Commission and the Forestry Commission, which will help to promote footpaths, access to farms and the use of woods and forests. Exhibitions and displays of rural industries will also be encouraged.

However, the scheme has not been universally welcomed. The Council for National Parks said yesterday that the development of large-scale tourist facilities posed a grave threat to national parks.

It cited applications to build holiday complexes in the Brecon Beacons, the Peak District and on the Pembrokeshire Coast. A typical development included up to 24 timeshare lodges set in several acres with a central leisure complex.

Fears for future of Moore trophy

By Simon Tait

The future of the Museum of the Year Award trophy, a Henry Moore porcelain sculpture, was uncertain as it was presented yesterday for the last time under the present sponsorship.

The Illustrated London News, sponsor since the competition began 16 years ago, is withdrawing and the new sponsor is expected to be British Gas.

The sculpture, entitled "Moonhead", was bought from Henry Moore in 1972 by Mr James Bishop, then editor of the ILLN, for a "knockdown price" of £1,200.

The magazine and all its assets, which include the sculpture, have since been bought by Sea Containers Group and Mr James Sherwood, its chairman. The small trophy may now be worth at least £15,000.

"It was not specially commissioned and there were no strings attached", Mr Bishop, now editor-in-chief of Illustrated London News publications, who presented this year's award to the Bradford Museum of Photography, Film and Television, said.

"I have been asked to find out the market value of the piece, but no decision has been made. The trophy will stay with the Bradford Museum for the next year. The new sponsor may by then have decided that there ought to be a new trophy."

But one of the award's founders, the writer and broadcaster Kenneth Hudson believes Moore's intention was different. "There wasn't any point in him letting them have it at that price if he was not certain that it would not be sold for a huge profit."

Rare island totem sells for £220,000

By Jenny Gilbert

The Rev J. Williams did a thorough job of cleaning up the Polynesian island of Rarotonga in 1823, apparently removing its entire population of "staff gods" - carved wooden totems representing local deities, stuck into the ground.

There are now no more than six in existence and only one in private circulation, which yesterday sold just above estimate at £220,000 at Sotheby's.

The second top price of £27,500, paid by a London dealer for an elegantly curved wooden dance paddle from Easter Island was "disappointing", according to Mr Roberto Fainello, of Sotheby's. "It is notoriously difficult to date tribal art, but evidence that the paddle was carved with a stone tool, rather than a metal

SALEROOM

one, dates it before the arrival of Captain Cook in 1776, and that makes it very old and rare for a tribal piece." The estimated was £40,000-£60,000.

From a group of Maori items a fairly common "tikiti", or carved pendant worn round the neck, fetched £18,150, against its estimate of £6,000-9,000. Tikis normally sell for around £1,500 but this example was at least twice the usual size and would have required a Goliath to support its weight. The sale totalled £489,632.

At Sotheby's sale of antiquities bidding was patchy but Attic vases sold well. A Mycenaean pottery chalice from the 13th century BC, estimate £3,000-4,000, went for £26,400.

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Tokyo reassures its southern neighbours

Japan to become third largest defence spender

From Brian Robins Tokyo

Japan's Self Defence Agency is seeking a 6 per cent boost in its defence budget for 1989 which is likely to result in Japan emerging with the third largest defence budget in the world...

An increase of the order sought by the agency could for the first time see the country's total defence spending exceed that of the United Kingdom, France, and West Germany.

As Japan's defence build-up proceeds, the nation's corporate sector is becoming less reticent about its ambitions in moving further into this field.

Recently, for example, Nissan decided to list weapons production as part of the company's activities for the first time.

Nissan has been involved in this area for several years and company officials said the reason for specifying defence activities at this time was to underline the group's diverse activities.

Much larger defence contractors in Japan include companies such

as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

With the steady increase in Japan's defence budget, domestic companies are keen to expand further into this area, since it promises an assured growth in the future.

Along with these developments, Mr Tsutomu Kawara, the Director-General of the Self Defence Agency, visited several South-East Asian countries last month, the first such visit by the head of the agency since it was established after the Second World War.

Mr Kawara's message was to calm any fears held by regional powers that Japan intended emerging as a major military force.

During his visit he met President Suharto of Indonesia, General Benny Murdani, the Indonesian Defence Minister, and Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore.

The Japanese Government has been extremely cautious about boosting the country's defence presence because it is hemmed in by hostile public opinion both inside and outside Japan.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone waged a

lengthy campaign while Prime Minister to increase Japan's defence spending above the 1 per cent limit of GNP imposed in the late 1960s.

Despite stiff public opposition, Mr Nakasone will finally prevail in 1986, laying the groundwork for an even larger increase in Japan's defence spending.

Based on the concept of "self-defence", Japanese officials have consistently rejected any pressure for Japanese forces to become embroiled in overseas peace-keeping efforts.

Japan has studiously avoided any participation in UN peace-keeping forces.

Mr Sosuke Uno, the Foreign Minister, recently said Japan would support financially any peace-keeping forces sought by the Association of South East Asian Nations member countries for Cambodia, while stating that Japan would not commit any forces.

Japan also has a long-held policy of not permitting the export of defence-related equipment.

That policy is beginning to look a little frayed around the edges after an agreement whereby the United States could gain access to Japanese defence technology in certain areas where Japanese com-



Mr Nakasone: Campaigner for increased defence spending.

panies have an acknowledged technical leadership. The gradual lifting of the veil surrounding Japan's defence activities marks a continuation of the steady increase in the country's international profile.

Most of these steps have been under way for several years although it is only now, with increased attention being paid to the difficulties of the US in maintaining its dominance of world affairs, that the spotlight is starting to focus on Japan.

The first significant step in Japan's decision to begin spread-

ing its defence wings was taken in 1981 when it undertook to defend its sea lanes up to 1,000 miles from Japan to ensure that its main shipping lanes remained secure during any potential disturbance.

This was followed in 1986 by the scrapping of the long-held policy which limited Japan's defence spending to less than 1 per cent of GNP.

Japan's latest thrust, to assure countries in southern Asia that its intentions are pure, marks a further step in this process.

During his recent tour, Mr Kawara made it clear while meeting both President Suharto and the Singaporean Prime Minister that Japan did not intend to become a military giant. He stated that Japan's self-defence forces would never be used to attack countries.

"For peace and stability in the Far East," Mr Kawara said while in Jakarta, "we have to step up and continue efforts to equip Japan's self-defence force and these must be supplemented by a defence agreement with the United States."

Japan's Asian neighbours have long been highly critical and suspicious of its longer-term ambitions, with bitter memories of

the Second World War still uppermost in the minds of many leaders in the region.

Mr Lee, one of the most trenchant critics of Japan's defence build-up, has become more mellow in recent statements.

In an interview with a Japanese magazine he argued that the US was becoming relatively weaker in the Asian region.

Accordingly, some sort of burden-sharing arrangement should be arrived at between Japan and the US to ensure the ongoing stability and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

During talks with Mr Kawara, Singaporean leaders pointed to the potentially destabilizing influence on regional affairs that may occur if the US regional presence began to decline as the result of economic difficulties.

"Japan can contribute (to stability in Asia) through economic means," a Singaporean Government official said after the recent talks, "thereby alleviating the US presence here."

Slow build-up: The 6 per cent increase in defence spending requested by Japan's defence agency is in line with the country's slow build-up in military expenditure (Michael Evans writes). But the

rise is still expected to keep the defence budget not far above 1 per cent of Japan's GNP.

Japan now ranks 10th in the world in defence spending in terms of GNP.

In terms of the ratio to total Government spending, Japan's defence effort will still be far below that of Western countries.

In the current fiscal year, the ratio to GNP has been just below 1 per cent - at about 0.997 per cent - because of the rise in the value of the yen.

This figure compares with Britain's 4.7 per cent.

Japan is currently engaged in a mid-term defence programme and, according to experts yesterday, it is on target to meet its commitment to the United States to improve its maritime and air defence forces by the early 1990s.

Japan has 15 submarines, 36 destroyers, 18 frigates and about 390 combat aircraft. The plan to build a Japanese-designed fighter plane for the 1990s has been replaced with a proposal to construct an aircraft based on the American F16.

Discussions about the possible purchase of an aircraft carrier have as yet produced no concrete proposals.

Exasperated Dukakis loses patience with defiant Jackson claims

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Governor Michael Dukakis, the apparent Democratic nominee for the presidency, has lost patience with the Rev Jesse Jackson, his defiant and sole remaining rival.

After holding his tongue for days while Mr Jackson needed him with protests over his likely choice of a running mate, the content of the platform and implied threats of opposition at the convention, Mr Dukakis remarked testily: "Jesse Jackson can do anything he wants to do. I'm going to the convention and I'm going to win it."

Mr Dukakis insisted at a press conference in Denver on Sunday that he was not frustrated by Mr Jackson's increasingly public efforts to extract concessions before pledging his support to the Massachusetts governor.

But Mr Dukakis made it clear he does not think Mr Jackson deserves special consideration. "This is a large party with hundreds of thousands of people who participated in the process... If people want to go to the platform and debate certain issues, they are free to do so. But we're going to come out with a solid platform, what I hope will be a solid, winning ticket and a united party."

Mr Dukakis has gone out of

his way to avoid alienating Mr Jackson and to win his support for whomever he picks as a vice-presidential running mate.

In a rare gesture, he and his wife entertained the Jacksons at home during the July 4 holiday. Since then, however, Mr Jackson has taken a more outspoken and defiant line.

His aides suggested last week that he might leave the convention hall and speak



outside if a platform debate intruded on his scheduled prime-time speech. Such a move would be a slap in the face for Mr Dukakis, and a signal to Mr Jackson's supporters that he was not being accorded due respect.

The Chicago clergyman later denied he was planning this, but spoke about the "creative tension" between his campaign and that of Mr Dukakis.

"I cannot assume responsibility for their lack of understanding of our struggle to change the country," Mr Jackson said.

"Ours is an endless campaign. Those who look for the

campaign to end are lacking a sense of history."

The Dukakis campaign has become exasperated by Mr Jackson's refusal to stop campaigning and by his plans for a bus trip to Atlanta to stir enthusiasm among his supporters. But Mr Jackson insists that if he stopped, he would let down his supporters and earlier generations who fought for civil rights and political power.

"I am privileged to represent a lap in a long race to keep America strong and make America better," he said.

Mr Dukakis believes the need now is for unity, and his campaign resents Mr Jackson's attempt to dictate the choice of a vice-president - a choice Mr Dukakis insists he still has not made.

"The choice of a running mate is Dukakis's to make and the convention is going to be Dukakis's launching pad, no one else's. Jesse Jackson has to understand that," one aide said during Mr Dukakis's tour of western states.

Mr Jackson has refused to take the hint. "Why won't the campaign stop?" he asked at a rally on Saturday in San Francisco. "This ain't no ordinary campaign. This is not the politics of go along to get along."

Gorbachov on tour as Armenians demonstrate



Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, with his wife, Raisa, clutching a typical Polish puppet presented to the couple by children at Warsaw airport yesterday when the smiling Gorbachovs began a six-day official visit to Poland.

Moscow (Reuter) - More than 100,000 demonstrators gathered in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, yesterday while factories stayed shut and tensions remained high over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, official sources said.

The rally took place after Mr Sarais Aramyan, the Armenian Communist Party leader, said Kremlin leaders would convene soon to discuss the five-month crisis over the disputed Azerbaijani region.

The governing council of Nagorno-Karabakh also called a meeting for today to discuss the continuing tug-of-war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over control of the disputed territory.

Yesterday morning's 90-minute rally outside the Institute of Ancient Painting in Yerevan was the latest in a series of mass demonstrations supporting Armenian demands to transfer Nagorno-Karabakh out of Azerbaijani administration.

Most people in Yerevan remained on strike yesterday, a spokesman for the official Novosti press agency said. The work stoppage was called a week ago to support demands for the transfer of the region to Armenia.

Warnings ignored: Armenians ignored pleas and warnings from Communist Party officials to return to work as the Army increased patrols in Yerevan yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

Residents reached by telephone from Moscow said public transport had ground to a halt and factories and businesses remained closed.

Stay-awake strike at Greek airports

Athens - Greek air traffic controllers yesterday began a hunger and stay-awake strike to disqualify themselves from duty on medical grounds (Mario Modiano writes). They resorted to their unusual industrial action after the Greek Government ordered their civil mobilization on June 23 to stop them from striking for better conditions and safety.

A spokesman said: "Within 48 hours most of us will be in hospital suffering from exhaustion." They expect airlines to stop using Greek airports or overflying Greece since hungry and sleepless controllers could not safely handle the overcrowded summer air traffic. If the strikers persevere, 1,800 flights a day using the Athens region could be affected.

Israel counts the cost

Jerusalem - The Palestinian uprising, which began seven months ago, has cost Israel 1 billion shekels (£360 million) in lost revenue from exports, tourism and reduced production, with a further 270 million shekels needed for defence and 8 million shekels for extra policing (Ian Murray writes). The cost was revealed in this week's Cabinet meeting by Mr Gad Yaakobi, the Economy and Planning Minister and Mr Yitzhak Rahin, the Defence Minister.

Meanwhile 10 Knesset members from opposition parties on both the right and left have started a hunger strike in an effort to force the Government to resolve the health crisis, which has been rumbling on for more than a year. They have pitched tents outside the office of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister - who has done his best to stay outside the dispute - where they have been holding "surgeries" for aggrieved doctors, nurses and patients.

Atlantic solo record

Newport, Rhode Island (AP) - Mrs Denise St Aubyn Hubbard, left, a 64-year-old Briton, has become the oldest woman to sail across the Atlantic Ocean alone. Mrs St Aubyn Hubbard, a 1948 Olympic diver, arrived here on Saturday after a 34-day voyage plagued by equipment failures, one of the last finishers in the Carlsberg single-handed transatlantic yacht race.

Chiangs in decline

Taipei (Reuter) - Waving a white handkerchief to cheering delegates at a congress of the ruling Nationalist Party, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the ageing widow of China's wartime leader, bowed off the political stage which was dominated for almost four decades by the Chiang dynasty.

Airbus tragedy spotlights US defence Americans question faith in hi-tech weaponry

From Michael Binyon Washington

Beyond the embarrassment and defiant official self-justification of the Airbus disaster, several questions are increasingly being voiced by ordinary people.

Has the United States put too much faith in weapons so advanced that they are virtually inoperable? Should the US be building billion-dollar warships unsuited to the low-level warfare in the Gulf and most local conflicts in the world? Has the US been suckered into buying ever more expensive hardware by the powerful military-industrial complex - whose huge financial stakes and corrupt contracting practices are only now being revealed?

The shooting down of the Airbus initially left most Americans silent in awkward anguish. People understood the terrible dilemma of Captain Will Rogers, accepted the compelling threat that prompted him to fire two missiles. But a week after Admiral

William Crowe's bald announcement of the incident, things look rather different.

A general fog of confusion and misinformation hangs over the Pentagon's public statements, which will not lift until Rear Admiral William Fogarty's team reports back with its findings. But if the public has so far hesitated to blame the captain, it has not spared his equipment nor the strategy that sent the Vincennes into the Gulf.

Criticism has centred on the vaunted Aegis battle-management system. Cruisers equipped with this system, named after the magical shield of the Greek god, Zeus, that made opponents tremble, cost \$1.2 billion (£588 million) each, destroyers nearly \$1 billion. But, as the New York Times remarked: "The modern Aegis has a way to go before it makes anyone tremble, except maybe the taxpayer."

In its first combat-like tests it intercepted only one out of the seven sea-skimming missiles fired at it. In two opera-

tional tests last year, one ship using the system shot down only six of 21 targets.

Just before a funding vote in May 1984, a test showed miraculous results in detecting low-altitude surprise attacks. Mr John Lehman, the former

Dubai (AP) - Iran is still searching for the flight recorder that could reveal details about the shooting-down of the Airbus, the Iranian Navy Commander, Commodore Mohammed Hussein Malekzadegan, said yesterday. But Dubai's Khaleej Times reported that the recorder had been found.

Navy Secretary - whose office has been implicated in the procurement bribes scandal - said the Aegis was the most carefully tested combat system ever built, and that "all operational requirements have been met or exceeded". But, in the light of the bribery scandal, such assurances are less convincing. America has been shocked

to learn that other expensive new weapons were kept in development although they failed the tests, because contractors used their influence to keep the programmes going.

Manufacturers try to influence the Pentagon, via consultants, or go directly to Congress, where they can promise lucrative contracts to congressmen's home districts. Indeed, the Pentagon has frequently complained that it has been unable to scrap unnecessary weapons or has been forced to choose a weapons system it does not want because of congressional pressure.

President Eisenhower's farwelling warning about the corrupting power of the military-industrial complex does indeed seem to have come true.

People are beginning to ask whether, if the Strategic Defence Initiative is ever fully developed, it would be wise to trust America's defence to a system where the chances of catastrophic technological

failure must be hundreds of times greater.

The Airbus disaster has underlined a trend that has increasingly worried some defence analysts: the oversophistication of weaponry of all kinds, and the reliance on high technology in the battlefield - or at sea - at the expense of cheaper, simpler, more reliable weapons and tactics.

The Vincennes was loaded with equipment for high-technology warfare via radar screen, supposedly more reliable than a man standing on the bridge with binoculars. But it could not tell the difference between an Airbus and an F14.

It is the same on land. Weapons systems have now become so expensive and complex that only a few can be built. But they need a PhD to operate them, and if a single computer element fails, US forces are naked and vulnerable.

The Russians, by contrast, stick with proven, cheaper

weapons, which they turn out in larger quantities. And if they break down in the heat of battle it takes only an ordinary soldier to hit them with a spanner to get them going.

Polls have shown that, after Japan, the US has the greatest belief in the power of technology. People cite this technological lead as decisive in giving the US the edge over Soviet forces. But, as analysts point out, this wizardry envisages a battle that may never be fought - a third world war at the limits of high-technology possibilities.

Most battles today are primitive skirmishes with standard weapons. A US defence policy that aims for a 600-ship navy but has no minesweepers to protect its billion-dollar ships looks foolish.

And a procurement system that pushes the Pentagon into buying weapons that profit contractors and middlemen but cannot perform their stated tasks looks to many like a system whose premise is profits, not security.

Aids virus lurking in New York beach flotsam

From Charles Bremner New York

Fear of Aids kept thousands of swimmers away from New York's suburban beaches despite a continuing heatwave yesterday as state officials sought signs of the deadly virus in syringes and blood vials which have been washed up on the Atlantic shore around the city over the past week.

From New Jersey and Staten Island in the west to the exclusive shores of the Hamptons, on Long Island, in the east, swimmers have been shunning the water since the small bottles of dried sewage and medical debris began a slow drift up the coast from New Jersey last Wednesday.

Five vials from New Jersey were found to contain Aids-contaminated blood. New York State officials waited until yesterday to begin

testing a handful of tubes and syringes apparently containing blood that were found on Long Island and the Borough of Queens. New York is home to the highest concentration of Aids sufferers outside Africa.

The scare has sparked a flood of rumours about such things as Aids-contaminated dolphins and inevitable headlines harking back to the shark phobia that followed the Jews films - set in Long Island - several years ago.

According to Dr Stephen Joseph, the city's medical examiner, there was little public danger, because any Aids virus "wouldn't survive more than minutes or hours". He added, not altogether helpfully, that hepatitis could probably last a little longer than the Aids virus. His remarks and official assurances that the pollution was no more dangerous than the ordinary rubbish that

washes up on the coast, did little to comfort the beachgoers who normally jam the shores of Rockaway, Jones Beach and Fire Island. At the weekend, when temperatures reached the high 90s only about half as many beachgoers as usual turned up and many of those stayed out of the water.

At various times, 25 miles of beaches, including Staten Island and the Jones and Rubert Moses State Parks were closed to swimmers because of the debris. The likely origin of the debris has been confusing the local authorities. Dr Joseph said initially he believed the syringes had been left by drug addicts on the beaches. Yesterday, he said the origin was not clear.

"From this whole episode, we now understand that needles on the beach are part of the ecology of New York, just as crack (cocaine derivative) vials in Washington Square,"

he said. Governor Mario Cuomo yesterday weighed into the row over the beaches. He proposed spending \$2 million (£1.2 million) for measures to combat illegal dumping and he called for tougher laws. "We've seen fear, revulsion, anger at this relatively small amount of waste," he said. But the refuse may simply have been dumped by individual.

Some Long Island officials are maintaining that the debris found there came from an overflowing storm sewer and not from a hospital. But most newspapers have been pointing the finger at the medical community. One hospital, St Luke's-Roosevelt, was recently fined \$30,000 for throwing human organs out with the ordinary rubbish.

Whatever the origin, the beach scare has put more pressure on local authorities and politicians to solve New York's looming rubbish crisis. With landfill space running out,

New York and a number of other American cities are at a loss over how to get rid of their refuse.

Some have won temporary relief by exporting it - to Britain, among other nations. But New York, which turns out twice as much waste per citizen as the cities of Western Europe, turned away from that option after the fiasco of its "garbage barge" which returned fully laden to the city after searching the southern seas in a vain search for a dumping ground last year.

The beach pollution has also heightened a sudden return to anxiety over damage to the environment. After years of being ignored, the environmental issue has leapt back into the headlines and editorial pages with news that the current drought may have been triggered by atmospheric pollution and that man-made gases are destroying the ozone layer and causing skin cancer.

Mexico in uproar as commission gives Salinas 53 per cent

By Our Foreign Staff

Senior Carlos Salinas de Gortari of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party has established a clear lead in last Wednesday's presidential election with 74 per cent of the registered votes processed, according to official figures announced early yesterday.

The Federal Electoral Commission said Senior Salinas had won 52.9 per cent of the vote, with Senior Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, heading a left-wing coalition, second with 29.1 per cent and Senior Manuel Clouthier of the right-wing National Action Party third with 16.7 per cent.

The commission also announced results for 185 electoral districts. It said that the Institutional Revolutionary Party had won 170 deputy seats, the National Action Party 13 and Senior Cárdenas's National Democratic Front two.

Many of the claims made by the Institutional Revolutionary Party are being hotly contested by the opposition parties in the commission on grounds of fraud.

The commission resumed at 4 am yesterday. Members were clearly exhausted and complained that they had been kept waiting all day without information.

A row erupted immediately because the National Action Party claimed there was not enough time to examine the results at that hour. That was the first of several shouting matches between Institutional Revolutionary Party commissioners and opposition representatives, who exchanged insults and accusations throughout the session.

National Action Party and Democratic Front members interrupted the reading of results several times to present evidence of fraud in many cases. The meeting ended nearly two hours later and will start again at midday today.

Senior Salinas claimed on Thursday that he had won, without giving any figures. Senior Cárdenas then claimed victory on Saturday and again on Sunday. He said that statistics given to him by a Government source, which he refused to identify, showed he had won the presidency.

"I give this information responsibly," he claimed. "I'm conscious of its importance and its consequences."

He again accused the Government of trying to defraud the citizens. "A president that assumes power that way will lack legitimacy and moral authority before the nation and internationally," he said. The country might become "ungovernable" if its government lacked credibility and the confidence of the electorate.

Senior Clouthier called on Mexicans to be ready to "close bank accounts and paralyse the traffic throughout the country at a given hour." He asked for a boycott of television stations and newspapers that "don't tell the truth" and promised "social sanctions for officials involved in electoral fraud".

Corrupt officials "must be frozen out of public life, their businesses boycotted; they should be whistled out of restaurants," he said.

If Senior Salinas "dares to take power we shall disobey each and every one of his acts. We won't share a table with them, they have chosen the bad before the good and lies before honour. From now on these social sanctions will be applied to all spurious functionaries," he said.

The long delay between last Wednesday's election and the emergence of results has sapped the Government's credibility, already weakened by many accusations of electoral dirty tricks.

A record number of Mexicans voted last Wednesday, which in itself is a great departure from the cynical tradition marked by massive abstentions.

Mexican commentators are emphasizing that the huge turnout demonstrates that Mexicans want peaceful change and had decided to vote for it.

The election has been the closest fought in recent Mexican history, with both opposition parties contesting the official results and claiming victory.

Senior Fernando Elias Calles, secretary of the commission, read out the figures giving Senior Salinas 7.38 million votes, Senior Cárdenas 3.85 million and Senior Clouthier 2.2 million.

Senior Manuel Bartlett, the Interior Minister who presided over the commission, said fraud allegations would be investigated.

Voting in 300 electoral districts was for directly elected members of the Chamber of Deputies. There will also be 200 seats elected by a complicated system of proportional representation.

Senior Elias Calles said that in 85 districts counted for the senatorial vote, the Institutional Revolutionary Party was ahead with 60.95 per cent, to the National Action Party's 15.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent for the Democratic Front.

On Sunday, National Action Party supporters coordinated protests, particularly in Chihuahua state. Protesters blocked the Córdoba bridge, the main link between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, Texas, about 20 miles east of El Paso.

The Pan American highway outside the state capital of Chihuahua, 200 miles south of the US border, was blocked by party members on Saturday night. Similar traffic interruptions took place in the Chihuahua cities of Delicias, Jiménez and Parral.

Senior Ramón Galindo, the National Action Party's campaign co-ordinator, said the electoral commission results showed that the party had won all three races for the Juárez area, lower chamber of the national legislature.

"These numbers signify the death of the (governing party) in Ciudad Juárez," Senior Galindo told about 1,000 people who cheered before beginning to leave the Córdoba bridge. Another 200 protesters then also left the blocked Zaragoza bridge.

Bologna station bombers sentenced to life in jail



Francesca Mambro, left, and Giuseppe Valerio Fioravanti, began life sentences yesterday for the 1980 bombing at Bologna railway station. A Bologna court sentenced the couple, who married in prison, and two other men to life imprisonment for the bombing, in which 85 people were killed and more than 200 injured (A Correspondent writes).

Fioravanti, Mambro, Massimiliano Facchini and Sergio Piccininoc were all right-wing extremists, and are

believed by the court to have been materially and directly responsible for the bombing. The 18-month trial, however, shed little light on the forces behind the bombing. The thesis of the prosecution was that this was a plot involving neo-Fascists, the infamous P2 masonic lodge of Licio Gelli, and members of Italy's secret services; the aim, to disrupt and destabilize Italy.

The court cleared Professor Paolo Signorilli, the right-wing ideologue, and Signor Roberto Rinani, a neo-

Fascist activist, of the charge of mass murder because of insufficient evidence. Signor Licio Gelli, the grandmaster of the P2 lodge, Francesco Pazienza, a P2 member linked to a number of scandals and intrigues, General Pietro Musumeci and Colonel Giuseppe Belmonte, officers of the Sismi intelligence service, were cleared through lack of evidence on the charge of subversive conspiracy.

All four, however, drew 10-year sentences for trying to hinder and

misguide the investigation into the bombing. In other words, the Bologna court established that the P2 and members of the secret services plotted to protect neo-Fascists directly involved in the bombing, but was unable to prove beyond doubt that they were the initial backers of the operation.

After the trial, the Mayor of Bologna, Signor Renzo Imbeni, said: "This looks to me like a part of the truth, and a part of justice. But the connection has been established."

Police combine to block triad migration

From Thomson Prentice, Hong Kong

Police in Hong Kong are planning tough new moves to prevent the spread to Britain of the triad criminal gangs which dominate the Chinese underworld.

Closer links between British and the Royal Hong Kong Police are being developed because of fears that many of the triads will move to Britain before the colony is handed back to China in 1997.

The chief concern is that the triads will accelerate the build-up of their sinister networks in the Chinese quarters of London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow and other cities, which they have infiltrated in recent years.

Chinese restaurant owners and importers of oriental foods have fallen prey to

extortionists who threaten them with violence or the destruction of their businesses unless they make regular cash payments.

In Hong Kong about 80,000 triads control organized crime, including prostitution, heroin trafficking, illegal gambling and the counterfeiting of merchandise. Their operations earn many millions of pounds a year and now extend to the main cities of Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

In recent months senior British police and Customs officers, including Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, have visited Hong Kong for detailed discussions on how to counter triad activities. One

result was a series of raids in 19 British cities earlier this month when more than 100 Customs men seized hundreds of pirated video tapes of popular Hong Kong television dramas, which are sold in Chinese communities. Nine people were arrested and their triad links with Hong Kong are being investigated.

Police here have mounted huge anti-triad operations recently. Ten days ago, 2,000 uniformed and plainclothes officers took part in pre-dawn raids on 800 premises, arresting dozens of suspected members of such notorious gangs as the 14K, Sun Yee On and the Wo Hop To. In an even bigger sweep four months ago 17,000 suspects were interrogated.

Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Merritt of Hong Kong's Organized and Serious Crimes unit has been briefing British police on the triads. He said: "The triads have been building up slowly in Britain for a long time but it is only in the last few years that their activities have been fully recognized by the British police."

"There is concern that they will move in greater numbers to the UK and to other countries and there is no doubt that there has been movement of them between Hong Kong and Britain recently. But I believe this is due to their gradual expansion rather than the prospect of 1997," he said.

Hong Kong police had files on more than 30,000 triads with criminal convictions and

all applications for British visas would be strictly vetted. A sophisticated new computer system soon to be introduced would help keep track of all suspects, he said.

"Both here and in Britain we need to take the toughest possible action against the triads. If that isn't done now, in 10 years time they will be so entrenched in the UK that they will represent a serious threat to law and order," he said.

Among moves he recommended were the recruitment and training of more Chinese-speaking police officers, the fostering of better community relations and legislation to make membership of triad groups illegal in Britain as it is in Hong Kong.

Irish priest among six held by Peruvians

Ayacucho (Reuter) - Peruvian police have accused six people involved in a human rights investigation of aiding Maoist Shining Path guerrillas. They also deported an investigator of the US human rights group, Americas Watch, Father Carlos Gallagher, an Irish national, and parish priest in Lima, Herr Reinhold Uhle, a German social worker and four others involved in a fact-finding mission in the town of Huanta 25 miles east of Ayacucho, were arrested.

Petrol alert
Brisbane (Reuter) - Australian police said that Brisbane would remain under a state of emergency until today after a massive leak of petrol at a fuel depot forced the evacuation from their homes of several thousand people.

Killer jailed
Madrid (Reuter) - David Baxter, aged 31, an American aircraft engineer from St Louis, Missouri, was jailed for 20 years for killing and mutilating a Madrid prostitute.

Visit clamp
Delhi - The police chief of communist-run West Bengal proposed that Pakistanis wanting to visit India be allowed in only with sponsorship from an Indian national.

Lake search
Trivandrum (Reuter) - Indian naval divers and fishermen continued to search a local lake for at least 25 bodies after recovering the remains of 106 victims of a train disaster.

Crash landing
Nairobi (AP) - No one was hurt when a Kenya Airways Fokker Friendship carrying 43 people crash-landed at Kisumu airport in western Kenya with failed landing gear.

Right to die
Peking (Reuter) - A Shanghai conference on euthanasia has proclaimed the "right to die" according to the People's Daily.

Bingo banned
Abu Dhabi (Reuter) - Bingo has been banned in the Gulf as emirate of Abu Dhabi as contrary to Islamic teaching.

Secret peace effort seen behind Sihanouk's resignation

From Gavin Bell, Bangkok

Prince Norodom Sihanouk has plunged Cambodian peace efforts into confusion and disarray yet again by announcing his resignation as leader of the resistance coalition and saying that he is going into "exile" in France.

The mercurial monarch astonished friends and foes alike with his announcement yesterday, only two weeks before he was due to attend a crucial meeting in Indonesia with all parties to the conflict.

In a brief statement from Bangsaen, a seaside resort near Bangkok, he said he was resigning "for serious reasons, which it is impossible for me at the moment to enumerate or explain". He was cancelling scheduled visits to several Asian countries and leaving for France in a few days.

Even by his own standards of erratic behaviour, the prince's latest move is remarkable. "Good Lord, he can't be serious" was the initial reaction of a usually well-informed diplomat.

He is indeed, but nobody seriously believes he is abandoning the peace process at what is clearly a critical stage. The consensus is that the wily

former Cambodian ruler is pursuing a secret initiative with the connivance of so-far unidentified foreign powers.

One of his aides reinforced this view yesterday when he said: "He has in his mind a way to resolve the conflict even faster. He has resigned, but when the time comes he will resume again."

A plausible explanation is that the prince is working on a settlement that would exclude the Khmer Rouge, the main fighting element of his tripartite coalition.

The one area of broad agreement so far is that the Khmer Rouge's ruthless guerrillas should not be allowed to resume their genocidal regime of the 1970s in which a million people died.

Thus the prince may be endeavouring to launch a non-communist initiative in conjunction with the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the third faction in his coalition. Reports that Mr Son Sann, the Front's leader, is in Paris has fuelled speculation to this effect.

Such a formation would be more acceptable to the prince's Asian and Western supporters on the one hand, and to the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh on the other. The perceived wisdom is that he could then reach an agreement with Phnom Penh and Hanoi on some form of

Prince plunges Cambodian talks into confusion



Sihanouk: Surprised friends and foes with announcement.

A senior diplomat concurred: "He may be difficult to

follow, but he rarely does things for nothing. He may have perceived a growing consensus that the Khmer Rouge must be dealt with before any settlement."

Whatever the reason for the prince's byzantine manoeuvre, his sponsors in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and the West professed ignorance and surprise.

A US source confirmed that there had been "not an inkling of it" during meetings of Asean foreign ministers and their Western allies in Bangkok last week, attended by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

Mr Shultz, in Indonesia yesterday, told reporters he did not know how to interpret

the move, but he believed the prince was looking for ways to reinforce his position. "I certainly felt from my meetings he has every intention, in one way or another, of seeing this thing through, and we want to support that."

The United States, in common with other Western countries, and the six non-communist nations of Asean, regard the 65-year-old prince as the key figure in any Cambodian settlement.

Indonesia said it was still prepared to host informal talks between the four Cambodian factions scheduled for July 25, and other Asean officials noted that the prince had not specifically ruled out attending them. Indeed, he evidently intends to be in

Jakarta around that time, as he confirmed that he would be paying an official visit there at the end of the month.

Mr Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said the resignation had not affected the prince's central role in the search for a settlement. Mr Alatas recalled that he had taken precisely the same step last year. "When Sihanouk resigned before, it turned out he was still very active... so we will just wait for developments."

It seems reasonable to assume that the French Government is among the cognoscents. It has played a discreet role in peace moves in the past, notably in arranging meetings in Paris between the prince and Mr Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister. Those talks came to nothing. It appears that the prince has hopes of better results with a new negotiating partner - whoever that might be.

● JAKARTA: Mr Alatas said yesterday after meeting President Suharto that Indonesia had invited delegations, not individuals, to the Cambodian peace talks, and that preparations for the talks would go ahead.

Leading article, page 15

Differences run deep as EEC heads rapidly towards 1992

Brussels View
By Richard Owen

As the Eurocrats of Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg prepare to depart for the summer recess (many, as usual, have already gone), they can reflect for once on a remarkable six months of progress in EEC affairs.

The days of all-night wrangling over the budget, once the hallmark of the EEC, seem to have evaporated. Having shaken off the shackles of financial bickering at last, the EEC is free to look ahead and decide what kind of Europe it wants after the completion of the single European market in 1992.

The problem - as the Hanover summit two weeks ago showed, and as the meeting this weekend between Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl demonstrated - is that the differences of the great at issue of Europe's future run at least as deep as the former disputes over the fine details of the farm budgets or the size

of Britain's rebate. "Europe is back" ("Europa ist wieder da") Herr Kohl told the European Parliament in Strasbourg last week, echoing his own parting remark to the Hanover summit at the end of West Germany's six months in the chair.

Europe, of course, has never been away. Some would say it is too much with us, as the Eurocrats devise yet more harmonization measures for the single market.

But what Herr Kohl meant was that the question of European unification which preoccupies and drove the EEC's founding fathers was back on the agenda.

The breakthrough came at the Brussels summit in February, which under Herr Kohl's chairmanship finally hammered out a package of financial and farm spending reforms originally drawn up by M Jacques Delors, the president of the European

Commission. With this logjam freed, 1992 directives have been rolling out of the Council of Ministers, helped along by the majority voting procedures contained in the Single European Act.

The pace has become bewildering, with the abolition of road haulage quotas coming hard on the heels of the free flow of capital across frontiers and followed by freedom for professional people to move around the EEC at will, all coinciding with the issuing of the first Burgundy-coloured EEC passports in Britain.

The danger, as M Delors recognized in his speech last week on national sovereignty to the European Parliament, is that Europe is moving towards integration at a speed faster than its citizens and

politicians can cope with - not least in Britain.

The fact that the Greeks have taken over the presidency from West Germany may slow the process down, partly because Athens is reluctant to expose the Greek economy to the breeze of cross-border competition, and partly because Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, wants to shift the focus of 1992 to ensure that social issues, such as worker participation in industry, are part of the new Europe.

Yet Greece shows no sign of slackening the pace and intends to tackle head on the difficult issue of how to control drugs, crime and terrorism across open borders, with a series of meetings in Athens.

At Strasbourg, M Delors suggested that within 10 years, 80 per cent of economic, social and fiscal legislation would be of European rather than national origin. He went fur-

ther, declaring that the 1992 process would require the "embryo" of a European Government, as early as the middle of the next decade.

His purpose, it seems, was not to antagonize EEC leaders and parliamentarians but to make them aware that the transfer of sovereignty to EEC institutions had already begun. In this way, M Delors hopes to avoid a sudden braking as 1992 looms, with the governments of the 12 wishing they had never signed the Single European Act and doing their best to subvert it.

There is room for argument about what 1992 will mean in practice. As Herr Kohl observes, questions such as the harmonization of taxation or the establishment of a European central bank to control the money supply in a frontier-free EEC are "matters of the highest sensitivity". But most continental govern-

ment assume that national interest can somehow be combined with the creation of a united Europe in which sovereignty is pooled.

The continental drive for union stems still from the experience of war and occupation, and has an idealistic undertow which tends to be missing from the British approach to Europe. This gives rise to resentment in the EEC, and not least in Bonn, when it is suggested that Mrs Thatcher and Britain can "speak for Europe" in world affairs.

When M Delors and Herr Kohl speak of national "sensitivities" and "difficulties", in other words, they are referring largely (though not exclusively) to foot-dragging by Britain, Westminster and indeed Mrs Thatcher.

The backlash danger to which M Delors referred applies above all to Britain, where understanding of how the EEC functions is still not highly developed, and where

despite booming business links across the Channel - the island mentality prevails, coupled with the pull of transatlantic ties and the legacy of a global great power role.

As a result, Westminster and the British public - or so at least it often seems to Europeans - are constantly surprised by every twist and turn in the 1992 process, from the imposition of VAT on new commercial construction to the belated discovery that the Commission has the power to vet mergers in the interests of EEC-wide competition.

The EEC is on course for 1992, but has yet to bring out into the open and to examine thoroughly the differing outlooks which underlie national attitudes to Europe. If M Delors' warning to parliamentarians to "wake up" has no other effect, it could usefully provoke EEC politicians into reflecting on what kind of Europe they are constructing.

July 11 1988

PARLIAMENT

Three frigates to be ordered from the Yarrow yard

The Government is to order three Type 23 frigates from Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde, Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, announced in a statement.

DEFENCE

The three new ships is about £10 million below the average of the last three ordered in 1985. "This reflects, among other things, the keenness of the competition, the benefits of batch ordering, and the improved efficiency of the shipyards (due in part to improved fabrication methods and to greater experience of building these types of vessel)."

He said that, although the Government had invited tenders for four vessels - the backbone of the Royal Navy's anti-submarine warfare surface force - it had decided to go ahead with the ordering of only three.

There were advantages in ordering all three ships from one yard. The fourth vessel would be included in next year's programme.

The Opposition gave the announcement a muted welcome.

Mr Sainsbury said that tenders were sought for orders for one to four ships from the four main shipbuilding yards in the United Kingdom. The precise value of the order was commercially confidential, but the prices submitted were keen.

After evaluation of the tenders, an order for three ships is to be placed with Yarrow Shipbuilders. "The ordering of all three ships from one yard provides best value for money in terms of price and contract conditions."

Although tenders were sought for up to four vessels in order to explore the benefits of batch ordering, an order now for four, even if all from one yard, would not be significantly more attractive in terms of unit price than an order for three.

"We have decided therefore that it would be best to include the fourth ship in the next batch competition. That will enable all the yards which participated in this competition to have the opportunity to bid again for this ship together with further possible orders."

"This decision brings to 10 the number of new frigates now on order, a figure which excludes the three Type 23 frigates accepted by the Royal Navy from the shipbuilders this year."

"There has been much comment in the press in recent days and from the Opposition about the size, age and availability of our surface fleet."

"I regret that much of it has

been ill informed. The announcement I am making today demonstrates in the best possible way the Government's commitment to maintaining a highly capable escort force of about fifty destroyers and frigates."

Mr Allan Rogers, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said that the announcement was welcomed by the Opposition, but it had grave misgivings.

It would be welcome first because it would mean an enhancement of the surface fleet, which had been reduced in capability and effectiveness because of the Government's gross inability to manage properly the defence economy over the past few years.

Second, it meant much needed job opportunities and safeguards for existing jobs in Glasgow.

However, Labour MPs from Tyneside would be dismayed. An order for one of the frigates could have been placed with Swan Hunter, which now faces the loss of 2,000 jobs in the near future and possibly complete closure.

Why was the fourth ship now to be the first one for next year? What is the Government's continuing policy? The Royal Navy, as the select committee said in its recent report, desperately needed surface ships if it were to service its commitments in the Gulf, the South Atlantic and to Nato.

"This announcement, al-



Mr Sainsbury (left) with Mr Rogers and Mr Galloway who welcomed the orders, though Mr Rogers had misgivings

though welcome for some areas of the country, and certainly welcome as an enhancement of our surface fleet, will be met with great dismay on Tyneside and is certainly not enough for our navy."

Mr Sainsbury said that Mr Rogers was very hard to please. His reaction to the statement was rather like Oscar Wilde's on seeing Niagara Falls: it would be more impressive if it flowed the other way.

The Government expected fabrication on the first vessel to start in about six months and the others to follow at about six-month intervals.

He was surprised that Mr Rogers had referred to the reduced capability of the navy. "I reject that allegation. These new ships, like other new ships, are highly capable and very much more capable than the

ones they are replacing.

Sir Antony Back (Colchester North, C) welcomed the announcement. The new types of frigates being ordered had a greater capability compared with those they were replacing. When would other orders be placed to maintain the commitment to 30 major surface ships?

Mr Sainsbury: These types are a great deal more capable, particularly in anti-submarine warfare. They have much enhanced sonar capability, are much quieter and the complement is 170 as compared to 220.

The next competition would be held next year, consistent with an ordering pattern to retain a modern highly capable fleet of destroyers and frigates.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) said that further orders were needed if the fleet

was not to become smaller and less effective. He asked for a planned approach to ordering rather than the present drip-feed approach.

Mr Sainsbury said that the defence select committee, of which Mr Cartwright was a member, had said that two new ships would be needed this year to maintain the commitment to a fleet of 30. He had announced an order for three.

Mr Michael Mates (East Hampshire, C), chairman of the Commons defence select committee, said that the order was excellent news for the Royal Navy and for hundreds of subcontractors. The minister should commit himself to future orders as the best way to confidence for the navy and the yards.

Mr Sainsbury said that he was happy to repeat the commit-

ment to retain a fleet of about fifty major surface vessels.

Mr George Galloway (Glasgow, Hillhead, Lab) said that the news would be welcomed with delight on Clydeside.

"A decision by the Government for once reflects a recognition of Britain's real defence needs in the real world, on real seas, rather than a nuclear preoccupation in a fantasy world which some military strategists persist in living in."

Mr Sainsbury replied that his reaction was more genuine and honest than that of the Labour Front Bench, which had looked for reasons to complain about good news.

There were 27 Royal Navy vessels now on order and 64 major ships and submarines had been ordered by the Government since it came to power.

Concern over waste lorries

An assessment of the impact on the road network in Merseyside from lorries carrying imported American waste between Liverpool and Warrington was done by Mr Christopher Butler (Warrington South, C) during Commons question time.

His request came, he said, because of a probable 622 lorry movements every day from Liverpool to Warrington carrying a total of 7.5 million tonnes of rubbish. Would that not place an unacceptable strain on the road network?

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said that was mainly an environmental question, although there were some aspects of interest to his department as well as to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Social Security.

£90m extra for aid

Britain would spend more than £90 million extra in overseas aid this year than had been spent last year, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said during Commons questions.

"Thanks to the economic growth in this country, we have an aid programme which is growing in real terms."

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab) had said that since 1979 Britain had become fourteenth among 18 OECD industrialised countries in the percentage of gross national product given in overseas aid. In 1979, 0.52 per cent of Britain's GNP went towards the 0.7 per cent target set by the United Nations. Now, only 0.28 per cent of GNP went towards that figure.

Kinnock is under fire

Mr Eric Firth (Mid Worcestershire, C) asked the Speaker to reprimand Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, for breaking the long-standing convention that politicians did not criticise the Government while abroad.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C) suggested that Mr Kinnock's passport should be withdrawn.

The Speaker said that he was not responsible for what was said outside the House.

Family court

The Lord Chancellor hopes to make an announcement about a family court by the autumn, after having considered the recommendations of the Butler-Sloss inquiry into child glossiness in Cleveland. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said in a written reply.

Teaching help

About 275 English language teachers were working in developing countries with the support of Britain's bilateral aid programme, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said during Commons questions.

Labour peer

Lord Grenfell, special adviser to the Lord Chancellor and formerly a member of the SDP, took his seat on the Labour benches in the Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister; Debates on Opposition motions on the gap between rich and poor in London and on public provision for sport for all. Lords (2.30): Debate on defence estimates.

Housing action trusts

Government puts £125m into improving poor housing

The Government is to set up housing action trusts (hats) in council estates in six severely rundown inner-city areas, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, announced in the Commons.

The establishment of the hats, he said, would be subject to approval by Parliament and to the Housing Bill, now before the Lords, becoming law.

Three of the areas designated are in inner London, one in Leeds, one in the West Midlands, and one in Sunderland.

The Government is to put up £125 million over three years to improve what the minister described as large concentrations of poor quality public-sector stock where there were intractable problems. He hoped that local councils would cooperate with the hats so that tenants could gain as quickly as possible.

He said that the Secretary of State (Mr Nicholas Ridley) proposed to establish hats in Lambeth at Loughborough and Angel Town estates in Southwark at North Peckham and Gloucester Grove estates; in Tower Hamlets at Solander Gardens, Shadwell Gardens, Berner, Boundary and Holland estates and part of Ocean estate, all in London; in Leeds at Halton Moor, Seacroft and Gipton estates; in Sandwell

(in the West Midlands) at Windmill Lane and Whitehead estates; and in Sunderland (Tyne and Wear) at Downhill, Townsend Farm and Hylton Castle estates.

Mr Ridley would shortly be appointing consultants to advise him further.

"Final decisions on the areas to be designated will be taken in the light of the consultants' studies and of local views."

The Secretary of State had chosen the areas taking account of the matters listed in the Housing Bill.

"The combination of problems associated with the rundown council housing in these areas is such that a radical approach is necessary to give tenants decent housing, better services and more choice."

"It will therefore be the job of each hat, in consultation with the residents, to carry out a major programme of renovation, to bring empty council properties back into use, to improve the way estates are looked after and generally to help to improve the economic, environmental and social conditions of the area."

"The creation of hats provides an opportunity to target resources on some of the areas where major concentrations of poor-quality public-sector stock

create very intractable problems.

"I therefore hope that the local authorities concerned will co-operate fully in setting up hats so that tenants can gain as soon as possible from the benefits that they will bring. The Secretary of State is writing to the leaders of the councils concerned today about the proposals. He is also writing to all local residents who might be affected."

Mr Clive Soley, Opposition spokesman on housing, asked why there was no choice for tenants or residents. What had happened to choice? Why had there been so little consultation?

What guarantees could they have that the local community would not be squeezed out and replaced by other people from other areas? What guarantees could the Government give the homeless?

Would he make sure that hats had some powers to bring into use empty Government-owned property, which was three times greater than empty council-owned property, empty housing association property, which was marginally higher, and empty private sector housing, which was nearly twice as high as that in the public sector?

Would he make sure that tenants would be able to go back

to the local authority when hats were wound up?

What guarantees could he offer that landlords such as Mr Hoogstraaten, who had already described the Housing Bill as a step in the right direction, would not benefit from this?

Mr Waldegrave said that there would be consultation with tenants at all stages of the process.

There was a duty to co-operate with local authorities on homeless people. It was unlikely that there would be any Ministry of Defence properties in any of the areas, but if there were, he hoped they could be brought back into use as soon as possible.

"If local authorities are willing to purchase the estates back, they will be free to do so."

The remark about Mr Hoogstraaten was cheap. Tenants would take a slightly more generous and positive view than Mr Soley.

Mr John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire, C) offered the congratulations of all the tenants in the areas. This would enable them to release themselves from the clutches of unsympathetic local authorities.

It would do more to relieve the plight of the homeless in areas such as Southwark, which

had rent arrears of £30 million, and would produce better housing and management.

Mr Waldegrave replied that some of the local authorities that covered these areas could not grapple with the severity of the problems they faced. Central government was now bringing resources to bear to do that.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) asked what was the constitutional position about problems of the allocation of houses and repairs. Would it be in order to put down Commons questions or ask the minister?

Mr Waldegrave said that hats would not be established until both Houses had debated the matter. In due course boards would be set up to deal with management problems, but Mr Ridley would be ultimately responsible.

Sir George Young (Ealing Acton, C) asked when hats be up and running. As well as physical improvements, would hats not provide better management afterwards by, for example, a localized repair service?

Mr Waldegrave said that he hoped to get hats set up by early next year, but if Labour chose to play party games and oppose these matters that would inevitably simply delay the bringing of finance to tenants.



Mr Waldegrave: Six areas are to be helped

HOUSE OF LORDS

brought forward to strengthen local authority powers to get repairs done as failure to comply with a repairs notice would become a criminal offence.

Housing benefit would be available to support market rents while safeguards would be in place to prevent exploitation by landlords or tenants.

The Government had not expected local authorities to start to come to it with plans for the voluntary disposal of their entire housing stock.

An amendment would be tabled to give the Commission for Racial Equality a power to produce codes of practice on housing to supplement the new

anti-harassment provisions.

Lord Dean of Bevis, an Opposition environment spokesman in the Lords, said that all independent studies had pointed out the deterioration in housing, but he did not see any sign of the legislation helping that.

He took exception to ministers using local government as a whipping boy for the failures of central government.

The Government complained at the number of empty properties owned by local authorities, although there was a higher percentage of empty Government-owned accommodation.

"If the Government believes that it will stop the swelling through on the streets of London and other inner cities it is living in Cloud-cuckoo-land."

He did not think that there would be a mass lemming-like rush by tenants to leave local authority control.

Lord Rees said that he supported the attempt to resurrect private landlords, but not at any price. There were many other Hoogstraatens waiting to exploit parts of the Bill.

The Bishop of Southwark, Dr Ronald Bowley, said that in Britain's wet and cold climate people on low incomes had to be assisted with housing and it could not be left to charity as if private housing for 10 million people could be provided.

Housing associations could cope only with so much change at a time. If new social landlords took over from local authorities there must be proper tenants' guarantees within the Bill.

Wheel-clamping 'waste of time'

Wheel-clamping wrongly parked vehicles wasted an enormous amount of police time and delayed traffic, Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said at questions.

But he suggested wheel clamps for coaches on Westminster Bridge that discharged passengers into the centre of the road and were likely to cause a serious accident.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, suggested that his department might encourage those involved to get together before there was an accident.

Dr Michael Clark (Rochford, C) said that wheel-clamping should be reserved primarily to deter motorists from parking in

non-parking areas. To use wheel-clamping for cars parked in residential areas or on meters after the clock had run out was inappropriate.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that it was a matter of concern for MPs and Londoners that it was so difficult to enforce parking restrictions in the capital.

What about the proposal that the local authorities should take over responsibility for the traffic warden system?

Mr Bottomley said that Mr Banks was encouraging the Government to suck eggs. Wheel-clamping, especially privatization of wheel-clamping and taking away, had led to a higher degree of deterrence

Britain 'near to seeing children begging'

Britain was very near to seeing children begging in the streets, Lord Ross of Newport (SLD) said in the Lords when he appealed to the Government not to meddle with the Homeless Persons Act, which he had introduced, requiring local authorities to house the homeless.

He was speaking during the second reading of the Housing Bill, aimed at reviving private rented accommodation and allowing council tenants to opt out of local authority control.

Opening the debate, the Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for the Environment, said that since 1971 the private rented sector had shrunk from about 17 per cent to less than 8 per cent. Many private properties were either left vacant or not fully occupied.

On the other hand, more than 112,000 council homes were empty and yet it was still difficult for tenants to move or to exercise real independence. So the central aims of the Government's policy was to increase choice, stimulate competition and involve the private sector in meeting housing needs.

The Government was not expecting the private sector to revive overnight, but it would increase under its policies.

Many householders with spare room would welcome extra income from lettings and need no longer fear entanglement with the Rent Act. Adequate safeguards would be provided against harassment, illegal eviction and other bad behaviour by landlords. Amendments would be

like to remind Mr Mullin of the course which this inquiry had taken.

On March 17, Mr Mullin made this assertion that Dr Skuse had been in touch with the former Detective Sergeant Ray Paton in the course of his evidence at the Court of Appeal hearing.

The Minister of State had advised him to put any evidence that he might have on any possible irregularity before the police.

It was not until June 3, in response to a request from the Commissioner of the City of London Police on May 9, that the source of the information was identified as somebody who in turn had had it from somebody else and he had refused to identify that person.

Those inquiries, therefore, had come to an end.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C) asked what was the value of IRA fund-raising in the United States of the campaign by subversives -

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evidence proves that one or more of the appellants had been in recent contact with explosives."

It had also said that the longer the case had gone on, the more convinced the court had become that the jury's verdict had been correct.

It had concluded that it had no doubt that these convictions were both safe and satisfactory.

As to whether any witnesses at the men's trial or at the hearing before the Court of Appeal gave conflicting evidence in any regard at all, each of these matters had been gone into in a hearing before the Court of Appeal that had lasted longer than any similar hearing had ever lasted, and that was a measure of the confidence that the country should have in the outcome.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C) said that the Court of Appeal, having heard all the evidence that the men's legal representatives wished to be put before it, had decided that the convictions were safe and that

there was no reason to interfere with them.

Having regard for the length of time taken, was it not now time to say once and for all that there was absolutely no reason why these convictions should in any way be questioned or interfered with?

Sir Patrick said that he thought that it was very important to remind themselves that every opportunity had been given to those who took Mr Mullin's view that there was something unsafe in the original convictions to call fresh evidence and to review the previous evidence before the Court of Appeal.

He had read, because he thought it helpful, the opinion of the Court of Appeal on that fresh evidence and, accordingly, to keep on and on without further evidence seemed to him to be seeking to undermine the reliability of the conclusion of the Court of Appeal and that was very harmful to public confidence.

Controlling traffic in London

Minister reluctant to charge

The time might come when somebody will have to introduce charging for vehicles to enter London, but Mr Paul Channon, the present Secretary of State for Transport, is reluctant to be that minister and told the Commons at question time that it was a deeply unattractive option which he was not keen to put into effect.

Charging would mean that only those who could afford it would be able to drive in London.

Mrs Ray Michie (Argyll and Bute, SLD) had asked what plans the minister had to reduce the density of private motor traffic in central London.

Mr Channon: I am aiming to promote measures that will help the existing traffic to flow more freely.

The measures we are taking are: improving trunk roads to take traffic around, rather than through, London; promoting the use of new technology to improve traffic management;



Mr Channon: Measures to increase traffic flow

network of new toll roads. Would it not be better that the public should use public transport and would he encourage that?

Mr Channon: That is an extremely unlikely idea. This is a progress report by consultants. None of their suggestions has the Government's blessing.

"I am determined to ensure that we get better commuter services into London and better Underground. That will be achieved by investment."

Mr Harry Greenaway (Ealing North, C) said that more use should be made of the River Thames and suggested that the minister should take a trip to Venice to see how waterways were used for transport.

Mr Channon: I cannot imagine anything nicer.

The present river-bus service between Westminster and Docklands was being extended to Chelsea and would play a useful part in carrying traffic through the centre of London.

Campaign on pub bombings attacked

Those who, without further evidence, kept on and on about the six men convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings were seeking to undermine the reliability of the conclusion of the Court of Appeal and that was harmful to public confidence, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said during questions.

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) had asked when he last met the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss the investigation by City of London police officers into telephone calls made by Dr Frank Skuse, the forensic scientist, during his appearance as a witness at the Central Criminal Court in the case of the six men convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings.

Sir Patrick said that he had done so last Friday.

Mr Mullin: Has he (the DPP) been asked when he was last in touch with Dr Skuse and what was his reply?

Sir Patrick said that he would

like to remind Mr Mullin of the course which this inquiry had taken.

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SPECTRUM

How are the police facing up to new problems? Ludovic Kennedy interviews Sir Peter Imbert, metropolitan commissioner

On the beat against corruption

Why this eruption of violence everywhere? Why are muggings, rapes, assaults on the very old, child abuse, football hooliganism, gangs on the rampage, all on the up and up, as though a whole section of our youth had spontaneously discovered the perverted excitement of abandoning the constraints and taboos that were once part of the fabric of our society.

If this is a trend that concerns us all, how much more concerned must we be by the ability of the law enforcement agencies to contain it? Every week we read of injuries inflicted on more and more policemen, of juries being intimidated by threats of personal assaults if they dare to convict.

To discuss this situation and the issues arising from it I visited the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Peter Imbert, in his office at New Scotland Yard. After he had told me that he knew as little about the causes of this violence as anyone, that he believed there must be 100 per cent membership cards for football crowds, and that corporal punishment for hooligans might have a place, I asked how much of a body blow the collapse of the recent prosecutions against football hooligans had been for him and his force.

A: Oh, considerable. We were all bitterly disappointed. And the effects of those cases will be with us for the next five years. It means we shall have to abort all cases where there's the least suspicion of discrepancy between officers' notes.

Q: These discrepancies, these improprieties, were only spotted by a vigilant member of one of the defence teams. Should they not have been spotted by the various senior officers in charge of the three cases?

A: Well, it remains to be seen what the improprieties were, if indeed there were improprieties, and that's something I've asked the Deputy Commissioner to look into.

Q: The Crown Prosecution Service referred to a lack of integrity in the police evidence. Are you saying there wasn't?

A: No, I'm not saying there wasn't. I'm saying I wouldn't like to make a judgement until we're certain as to what the problem was. But I take your point, and I accept my responsibility for any failings in our procedures or in our supervision.

Q: Sergeant Mike Bennett of the Police Federation claims there was great pressure on the Met to get results.

A: Yes, and there is bound to be.

Q: Where does it come from?

A: It comes from the press, and it comes from the public. And rightly so.

Q: The Prime Minister, too, made it clear she wanted results.

A: Yes, it was said in Parliament. I, too, am part of the process. Pressure is put on me to do something about it.

Q: Mr Peter Carter of the Criminal Bar Association has spoken of the worries of his members in the light of these three cases. He says they cast a shadow on police evidence everywhere. What is your response to that?

A: I acknowledge that every time we have to abort a criminal case, it will cast a shadow on the integrity of police evidence. But I hope that Peter Carter will also acknowledge the many thousands of cases, some very complex, and some involving very dangerous operations, which have been successfully prosecuted. The very fact that he feels bound to say something about it and I feel bound to have an inquiry shows how infrequent these cases are.

Q: Would you agree with me that when the police do egg the pudding, manipulate the evidence a little, they don't do it to frame innocent men, but to see that justice is done to those whom they believe to be guilty, but where absolute proof is lacking?

A: Here we have a very difficult situation where officers have been involved in undercover work with the football criminals. They must make their notes as and when they can, and it can't be at the time, and there's no good talking about tape recorders because there's a grave danger there. They've witnessed the offences but it's extremely difficult to get some sort of corroboration that can go before the courts. And inevitably their evidence will be attacked.

Q: I wasn't asking that question about the football cases specifically but as a general question. As you know, there have been many instances in the past of officers trying to improve the evidence in order to get a conviction.

A: I think we should look and see what police corruption really means. Are they doing it because they are very much aware of the guilt of these people and determined they should be convicted, or for some other reason? I think the corruption we used to see for personal gain has gone. The fear I have is that police officers, when faced with the enormous hurdle of convicting those they know to be guilty, may be persuaded.

Q: Know to be guilty or believe to be guilty?

A: Well, if they witness the offence they know them to be guilty. If they haven't witnessed it, then of course they believe them to be guilty but it would be quite wrong for any police officer to be persuaded to corrupt his notes in what you might call the interests of justice. The system has got to be changed if it isn't big enough to resolve these anomalies within it.

Q: Would you agree that it's this egging the pudding, what Lord Devlin has called the police pressing too hard against those they believe to be guilty, which has been the main cause of miscarriages of justice in the past?

A: I am aware that allegations have been made in the past and that there have been cases where police officers have expanded their evidence or, as you say, have egged the pudding. This is not only unwise but unlawful and I would discourage, indeed I would forbid, any police officer to have any part in it.

Q: One case, you may remember, in which guilt was proved solely on police evidence of alleged confessions was that of the four people convicted of the Guildford pub bombings of some 14 years ago, and who are still in prison today. As you played some part in this, have you ever had any doubts about the correctness of those convictions?

A: I haven't had any doubts about



Under the gaze of Sir Robert Peel: Sir Peter Imbert believes that some policemen are "far too ready to assume a suspect's guilt"

'What we need is a much crisper and more beneficial system of justice'

the convictions. What I have had doubts about is the length of the sentence of the girl who was involved in it. No matter the size of the crime, I find it unacceptable that a girl at the age of 17 be incarcerated for 20 or 30 years. I don't believe that at that age one can form such a wicked intention that its effect is going to last for the whole of one's life.

Q: I think you interviewed the Balcombe Street gang who claimed to have taken part in those bombings, but you didn't believe them?

A: Oh, I believed the Balcombe Street gang, all the way through.

Q: The Balcombe Street gang said that those who were convicted were innocent.

A: Yes, that's right. The Balcombe Street gang obviously knew a lot about the Guildford bombings and the Woolwich bombing. The only thing I can conclude is that they all knew each other, or in some way the Balcombe Street gang were told about it in fine detail.

Q: But you still hold that justice was done in the Guildford case,

although a lot of people today, judges and politicians and indeed myself, doubt the correctness of those convictions?

A: I can only speak about the questioning at Woolwich because I was there. The questioning was fair and objective, and the admissions made without any pressure whatsoever. I wasn't part of the questioning where Guildford was concerned.

I had been interested to see that in two recent articles the Commissioner had queried the efficacy of our adversary system of criminal justice because for many years now and as a result of studying numerous miscarriages of justice, I had become convinced that the inquisitorial system, as practised in France and elsewhere, is superior to it. The essential weakness of the adversary system, it seems to me, is its artificiality, where police manipulation of evidence can lead to the conviction of the innocent and the skills of counsel to the acquittal of the guilty. This was also the view of Tom Sargent, secretary of the lawyers reform organization Justice for 25 years, who died a fortnight ago and whose know-

ledge of miscarriages of justice during that time was second to none.

In one of his articles the Commissioner had written: "Does the trial under the adversary system focus too much upon the rules of the game and not sufficiently upon the search for the truth?" I asked the Commissioner if he would care to elaborate on that.

A: I think the time has come for us to take stock of the system, because throughout my career, I've been concerned at the game we play in court which we call the adversary system and which is designed, as I understand it, to discover the truth.

Q: Lord Hailsham and others have said that our system is not designed to discover the truth, but simply to determine the narrow issue of whether the man in the dock is guilty or not according to the evidence.

A: Well, I do wonder whether the rules of the game are actually preventing us from discovering the real truth, and I'm not only thinking of those who are found not guilty. Let me give you an example. One of the first court

cases I heard where I joined the police was to do with causing death by dangerous driving, and a lot of play was made by counsel as to whether a witness got out of a car with his right foot first or his left foot. Some thought one, some thought the other, some couldn't remember, and it was only at the end of it that I realized that that line of questioning was not designed to establish the truth in any way, but to throw doubt and confusion over the whole proceedings.

Q: To discredit the witnesses?

A: That's right, to discredit the witnesses in the eyes of judge and jury, and we see it happen all the time. Police officers know that if they've got a first-class case, they will be attacked in court, and that the only line of defence that counsel has is to try and discredit them.

Q: Would you like to see the accused made a compellable witness in France?

A: I think it right that the accused should say something, but I'm shying away from saying that a person should be compelled to do anything because we run into the problem of liberties. And yet I do

firmly believe that the right of silence ought to be considered more closely, that we ought to give the right of comment to a judge or the prosecution if the person has not given an answer to what he's accused of doing early in the proceedings.

Q: Would you be prepared, as a sort of quid pro quo, for the early examination to be carried out not by a police officer but by an examining magistrate as in France?

A: I think in a way we are almost unwittingly moving towards the French system. We've introduced the Crown Prosecution Service, which separates the decision to charge initially from the decision to continue the case. It was a blow to our pride when we lost that, but I think it right that somebody else should take that particular decision. Now if we find that in a number of cases the Crown Prosecution Service has decided to abort or stop a particular process, then it's inevitable we're going to have a closer examination of police evidence, and one could argue that that's right. Although we have held evidence very close to our chest up to now, I think the time has come to consider whether or not the Crown Prosecution Service or an examining magistrate ought to look at that evidence before it proceeds any further. I would have no objection.

Q: Would you like to see more of the questioning in court done by the judges, as in the inquisitorial system, rather than by counsel trying to score debating points?

A: I think there could be much more involvement by the judges than at present. One sees it in some courts, and it doesn't make prosecuting or defending counsel too happy. What we need is a much crisper and more beneficial system of justice. I'm not saying that because I'm trying to reduce the responsibility of police officers to maintain the integrity of their own evidence. We've got to make sure our own house is in order. Nevertheless I think it is time to look at our criminal justice system afresh.

Q: If we were to start from scratch to devise a system of criminal justice for our country today, do you think we would choose the one we've got?

A: I'm quite sure we wouldn't.

Because the Commissioner did not want to discuss the details of the three cases, I did not ask if he thought that under a different system, the charges might still have been proceeded with. But from the general tenor of our conversation, it is my belief that he had reason to think so; for if the improprieties committed were (as I suspect) less venal than they might seem, no more than minor discrepancies in the preparation of police evidence, the president of the court under the French system would have decided whether these would have affected the overall evidence of the officers as to the truth of what they had seen and heard. Indeed, under the French system, any such discrepancies would have been ironed out by the examining magistrate long before he sent the case for trial.

As for the Commissioner and I walking to the door, he said, spontaneously and to my surprise, what I have believed to be true for years.

"I think the policemen are far too ready to assume a suspect's guilt in the early stages when we should be assuming his innocence."

In France, where in all serious cases the examining magistrate interviews the police, that problem is taken care of too.

SCIENCE REPORT Shell shocked but still alive

The fact that the hard shells of lobsters, crabs and snails resemble the armour of medieval knights is no coincidence: both are designed to protect the wearer from sharp-edged weapons, whether tooth or sword. But medieval knights never had to face the possibility of being swallowed whole and left to stew in acids and digestive enzymes. That is a fate that many marine snails and crustaceans suffer. But, according to research published in the latest issue of the US journal Science, the shells of marine snails can seal up their occupants so tightly that they can safely survive a journey through a fish's intestine.



ers have long been puzzled by the general question of why so few kinds of fish eat marine snails, even though there are plenty of snails in the sea. One explanation is that gastropods have been able to keep ahead in the evolutionary race: the strength of their shells is greater than the power of the jaws and claws that might rend them. And they have added surface defences. Much of the ornamentation on sea shells that so delights collectors is there for a serious purpose: spikes deter fishes, or make the diameter of a shell too big for the gape of a predator's mouth. The few fish that are known to eat molluscs have robust bones, powerful jaws and special teeth. But the fish that Norton studied does not have strong jaws. Rather, it has a unique structure on the roof of its mouth — a piece of bone bearing a row of sharp spikes. It seems that the fish swallows snails and presses them against these spikes with its muscular tongue, often generating enough pressure to punch a small hole. The fish is not always successful in punching a hole. Norton found that un-punched snails were able to survive the trip through the fish's intestine and emerge alive. But snails in which holes had been punched never survived, nor did limpets and hermit crabs when they were eaten by the fish. The observations add up. Limpets and hermit crabs lack an operculum — a tightly-fitting lid which can seal the snail tightly inside its shell. With the operculum, snails can survive even a passage through a fish's intestine,

While studying fish at the University of Washington's field station on Puget Sound, Stephen F. Norton, a researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, discovered the unsuspected ability of snails to endure being eaten alive. Norton wanted to know why it was that one species of corded fish, *Asemichthys taylori*, was able to live on a diet of gastropod molluscs — marine snails — while the fish's close relatives could not. Research-

ers have long been puzzled by the general question of why so few kinds of fish eat marine snails, even though there are plenty of snails in the sea. One explanation is that gastropods have been able to keep ahead in the evolutionary race: the strength of their shells is greater than the power of the jaws and claws that might rend them. And they have added surface defences. Much of the ornamentation on sea shells that so delights collectors is there for a serious purpose: spikes deter fishes, or make the diameter of a shell too big for the gape of a predator's mouth. The few fish that are known to eat molluscs have robust bones, powerful jaws and special teeth. But the fish that Norton studied does not have strong jaws. Rather, it has a unique structure on the roof of its mouth — a piece of bone bearing a row of sharp spikes. It seems that the fish swallows snails and presses them against these spikes with its muscular tongue, often generating enough pressure to punch a small hole. The fish is not always successful in punching a hole. Norton found that un-punched snails were able to survive the trip through the fish's intestine and emerge alive. But snails in which holes had been punched never survived, nor did limpets and hermit crabs when they were eaten by the fish. The observations add up. Limpets and hermit crabs lack an operculum — a tightly-fitting lid which can seal the snail tightly inside its shell. With the operculum, snails can survive even a passage through a fish's intestine,

provided the shell is un-punched. The special structure in the *Asemichthys* fish's mouth is designed to give digestive enzymes access to the snail's soft parts. With the role of the operculum understood, it is easy to see why it is that gastropod molluscs are such unattractive food to most fish. Without powerful jaws to crush snails, or a special structure to punch holes in them, it is pointless to eat them. As Norton puts it: why eat what you cannot digest? It also explains why freshwater fish, such as tench and carp, are able to eat snails. The freshwater snails, which belong to a different group, have never evolved an operculum and can be digested if swallowed whole. Norton speculates that the ability of marine snails to withstand digestion may have also given them a unique advantage. If eaten by a fish — or even a diving duck — they may be carried long distances. Hitch-hiking a ride will enable them to spread to new locations much faster than going at a snail's pace. Alun Anderson © Nature Times News service 1988

The violent scenes that marred the end of a quiet Sunday out for the families of Aylesbury, with five arrests and four police injured, typify the growing trends of lawlessness in rural Britain.

Hurd instinct, pack of trouble

These were highlighted yesterday by *The Times*, which reported on the underbitch atmosphere in the Buckinghamshire market town just hours before the incident. The events of Sunday afternoon, no longer a rarity in the weekend life of a sture town, also bear out many of the fears expressed yesterday in our survey of chief constables' annual reports.



Flashback to the profile of Aylesbury in *The Times* yesterday

It had been an exceptionally peaceful weekend in Aylesbury, cited in May by Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, as one of the large country communities suffering regular violence and disorder. Saturday, the first day of Aylesbury's annual carnival, had passed without incident as the 31 boats had made their way from the town centre to the Edinburgh Playing Fields two miles away. But on Sunday afternoon it was a different story. Although only about 600 people were present, many had spent a rainy lunchtime in the pubs of the town, and now converged on the carnival's beer tent to carry on drinking. The tent was due to close at 5.30 that afternoon, but with 10 minutes to go the management, sensing trouble, had

asked the police for help in clearing customers. When one drinker became abusive to a police officer, he was arrested for being drunk and disorderly and taken out to the police van where, in the words of the police report on the incident, "a second person attempted to effect his release".

When he too was arrested, the situation suddenly threatened to get out of control. As the two men started struggling violently with police inside the van, a group of more than 100 people surrounded the scene and started chanting. Some were trying to intervene and free the arrested men. Although the whole incident lasted no more than 25 minutes, four police were injured, with one officer taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital for treatment to a bite on his leg. By the time the crowd was dispersed there had been a total of five arrests for disorderly conduct, assault on police, actual bodily harm and criminal damage.

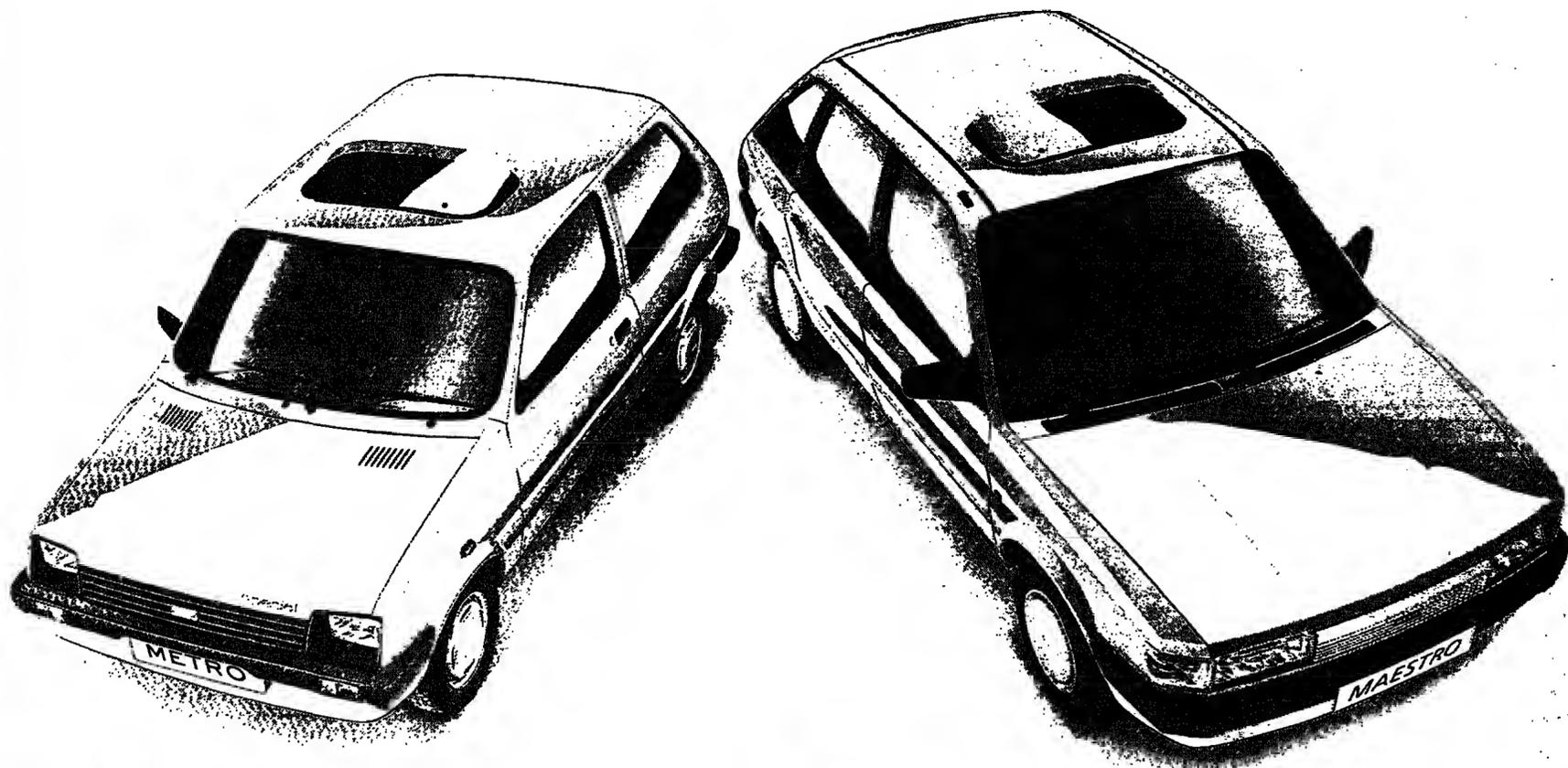
It was a classic example of the kind of incident which rural forces are experiencing with increasing frequency: an isolated incident suddenly flaring into something worse as the police step in and become a target for bystanders. As at Aylesbury, alcohol is almost always a major factor. Charles Pollard, Thames Valley area's assistant chief constable in charge of operations, agreed yesterday that it was "almost a textbook incident of the rural disorder at present. One man is arrested, another interjects, the crowd starts chanting, and so on ...

If there hadn't been enough police there, it could well have got very ugly."

Until the trouble started, there had been 11 police at the carnival, as well as three more manning a community liaison stand. At the height of the fracas there was a total of 25, including the reinforcements from two neighbouring stations in the division.

"The important thing to bear in mind is this," said Assistant Chief Constable Pollard. "The reason that these things can get out of hand in the rural towns is often the time it takes for the reinforcements to arrive. In the larger towns they're nearer to hand, and better able to nip it in the bud." Colin Smith, Thames Valley's Chief Constable, repeated the warnings he has given in several annual reports on the dangers of insufficient manning levels in the force. "We are 600 officers short of us up to the average level for the non-metropolitan areas," he said. "There is what I call a break point in lawlessness. Below a certain level it becomes harder to police in an adequate way, and I consider we are below that level."

Alan Franks Correction The slump in Cadbury's profits (*Spectrum*, July 1) was in 1985, not 1982.



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The new Metro and Maestro Specials.

FASHION by Liz Smith

Made to measure and treasure

Behind many well-dressed women is a well-kept secret — a dressmaker who sews to order

Even a good friend can be maddeningly evasive at times. There she is in a particularly pretty new linen jacket that is obviously new. With its curvy shoulder line and gently rolled collar it looks suspiciously like an Armani. "Thank you... No, it's not really from anywhere," is her unhelpful response to your curiosity. Could it be you missed such a chic number when you were last in M & S? It fits so perfectly. Aha, that's it. She's had it made.

Having clothes custom-made, seemingly a luxury of the past in today's off-the-peg world, is the way many women choose to build up precisely the wardrobes they want. It is the way a hard-up student or a deb ensures that her dance dress is unique. It is how a bride can have her dream dress. It is the means by which a clever woman can acquire designer style, either by having something created exclusively for her or by getting a Valentino or Lacroix copied from *Vogue*.

The traditional "little woman" around the corner who ran up a silk suit in a week, let out the seams of an old skirt or undertook an entire bridal retinue has been replaced by a nationwide network of savvy dressmakers and tailors, talented men and women who know their Kenzo from their Karan and operate a flourishing form of couture a mere whisper of silk thread lower than *haute*. Price matches the quality you demand, from £30 for a shirt or skirt to several hundred pounds for a lavish couture number made with a toile (when the fit is established in calico before the cloth is cut).

New clients are "introduced" by friends; clutching pages torn from the glossies and scraps of fabric, members of the clique pass each other on the stairs on their way to fittings. Along with picking up the nuances of an Ungaro peplum, a dressmaker learns tact, to ensure no similar dresses are seen twirling at the same party.

The new breed of dressmakers practising the civilized craft of the tailor-made have learnt their trade at art school or by "picking up pins" for a top couturier. A surprising number are Mrs Bailey's girls, alumni of Elizabeth Bailey's school in Kensington, London, where between A levels and university they can fit in a term or two learning dressmaking. They can tack a crinoline inside a puffball in their sleep.

John Cahill, St Martin's-trained and a former assistant to Victor Edelstein, works from his small house in London's Shepherd's Bush. His price is high, but while hunting for the best faille or double duchesse satin from Taroni in Milan, he is likely to track down the shoes and run up a hair bow to wear with the outfit. For Lady Rayne, who needed a dress for the theatre, he produced two different cummerbunds—one in shocking pink, one beaded in jet—to give versatility to a black cashmere and satin dress. A strapless velvet number for Anne Peto, a partner in the interior decorating firm of George Spencer, has an optional halter plus a tight long-sleeved bolero. "We wrap, we twist, we play around with fabric," Peto says. "It's the plotting and sketching that are so much fun."



BEST DRESS MAKERS

A guide to Britain's recommended dressmakers. Prices do not include fabric unless otherwise stated.

● Annelise Arthur: Green Acre, Kings Ride, Ascot, Berkshire (0990 22648); bridesmaid's dress from £60; evening dress £80.

● Debbie Ayrton-Grime: 304 Munster Road, SW6 (01-381 2277); designs in consultation with client; uses toile; wedding dress £450; evening dress £150; suit £130. Hand-embroidery, pearl and crystal-beaded wedding dresses a speciality.

● Amanda Barber (with Jennifer Bryant): 59 Dorothy Road, SW11 (01-228 6055); uses toile. Skirt £70; evening dress £250; wedding dress £800.

● Margaret Beall: The Roundels, Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex (0435 883289); suit £70; ballgown £70; wedding dress £200.

● John Cahill: 4 Hoppood Street, W12 (01-740 5562); trained St Martin's; assistant to Victor Edelstein; couture cloth, trappings and toile for high society clients; prices from £800 include fabric.

● Shireen Corlett: Ballangh, Isle of Man (062 489 7524); trained by Mrs Bailey; embroidered and beaded wedding dresses a speciality; creates own designs or happy to copy old favourites. Wedding dress from £200-£600; dance dress £200; special occasion suit £150.

● Camilla Cottrell: 20 Westmorland Place, SW1 (01-834 4812); Mrs Bailey trained, uses toile; specializes in weddings; dance dress £200; wedding dress £400.

● Rose Coutts-Smith: 53 Abney Business Centre, 15 Lngate Place SW8 (01-720 9807); former theatrical costumier; cocktail frock, £250; ballgown £450; wedding dress £800.

● Yvonne Franklin: Fitzwilliam, Hatch Lane, Windsor, Berkshire (0753 864090); apprenticed to couturier John Cavanagh; tailoring a speciality; suits start at £200; wedding dress (many with hand-embroidery) from £200; will work from a pattern.

● Donald and Fiona Fraser: 51 Forth Street, North Berwick (0620 4220); husband and wife team; he weaves fabric in wool and silk or linen/wool mix; she designs; golfing blouson £60 and culottes in tartan £70; wedding dress £400.

● Anna French: 8 St George's Mansions, SW1 (01-821 8143); wedding dresses, £500; ballgowns from £100 for a strapless style; suits £100; jackets £50, skirts £30.

● Paul Golding: 93 Cheyne Walk, SW10 (01-352 2331); clients include Evangeline Blahnik and Duchess of York; prices "astronomical": £800 up, including fabric.

● L & L Designs: 26 Chelsea Square, SW3 (01-351 0195); Lucy Shapland and Lisa London both trained by Mrs Bailey; specialize in hand-beaded wedding dresses, £400; short, snappy evening frocks, £150; special occasion maternity clothes, from £45 for basic skirt to £150; silk underwear, from £25.

● Micheline Montagu-Scott: Winden Knolls, Marley Common, Haslemere, Surrey (0428 3505); day dress £75; ballgown £100; wedding dress £600; designs or adapts *Vogue* patterns.

● Bill Pashley: 7 Jner Street, SW11 (01-228 8721); shot to fame in 1981 in the wake of sudden celebrity of customers Mrs Frances Shand-Kild and her three Spencer daughters.

● Caroline Scott: West Studios, Room 214, Patriot Hall, Stockbridge, Edinburgh (031 226 3160); makes for men too; shirt £35-£40; suit from £250 (women), £300 (men); evening dress £200; wedding dress £400.

● Judy Umfreville: 11 Belgrave Road, Barnes, SW13 (01-741 3555); trained at Hardy Amies, with Queen's tailor, Mr Michael; 8-panel skirt £80; soft suit £165; evening dress £250; wedding dress (piping a speciality) £430.

● The Workshop runs three 13-week terms a year, Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm. For prospectus and fees, telephone Mrs Elizabeth Bailey on 01-584 2126.

Top: Dressmaker Amanda Barber with clients (left to right) Lotia Lorimer, PA in advertising agency, wears blue sequined, scalloped neckline ribbon knee-length dress, £350 plus fabric; Irena Haugar, a photographer, in frog-fastened embroidered white cotton cloque jacket, £200 plus fabric; Countess Alexander of Tunis in pink taffeta and cloque mid-calf length evening dress, with dropped waist and double bow £350 plus fabric

Left: Couturier John Cahill with Anne Peto, partner in interior decorators George Spencer, wearing knee-length pink silk satin halter dress, approximately £800 including satin

Far left, above: Paul Golding with Leonie von Groot, manufacturer of jewel cases, in acid green taffeta knee-length cocktail coat over vinyl sheath dress, approximately £800 including fabric

Far left, below: Dressmaker Judy Umfreville with Shirley Valentine and her daughter Helen, librarian at the Royal Academy, both wearing mid-calf length dresses in printed Thai silk, £110 plus fabric

Make-up by Jennifer Nolan at Sessions Hair by Alan Whyte of Neville Daniel, 175 Sloana Street, SW1 Photographs by TONY MCGEE



PEOPLE

Hall of fame

Jerry Hall's merest wish to be a fashion designer, casually dropped in conversation with me and mentioned on this page last September, became swimwear manufacturer John Porter's command. He read *The Times* on holiday and sprang into action to sign up the Texan model. Jerry Hall by Tralo, the resulting swimwear line, will be introduced at the Sun and Swimwear Show in London later this month and arrives in the stores in October.

In her new role of designer, Hall accompanied Porter to Monte Carlo to choose the fabrics. Armed with her "sketches and scribbles", she spent days in Poole in Dorset, working with the Tralo design

team. "She doesn't know the length of a seam or how to lay out a pattern," Porter admits, "but she has a marvellous eye." Jerry Hall's swimwear will sell from £30 to £70. Stockists are expected to be Fenwick, Harvey Nichols, Harrods and House of Fraser stores.

Smart sample

Suzy Diamond, who has added an off-the-peg line to the successful custom-made couture service that is her speciality, is holding a sale this week of couture samples. She has teamed up with Lisa Sharpe (of Glanville-Sharpe handmade silk shoes), Florence Hardinge (knitwear and accessories from FH Consultancy) and Accessible hats for a week-long Designer Summer Sale at 2 Fulham Park Studios, Fulham Park Road, SW6 (01-736 4959).

THE BEAUCHAMP PLACE SHOP

Summer Sale

Up to 50% reductions

55 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 Telephone: 01-589 4155

Rodier, synonymous with jersey and Parisian style, is opening a London store

A taste of French dressing

Coco Chanel is always credited, correctly, with making jersey fashionable. Until she eased women out of their whalebones and into the relaxed sailor sweaters, long skirts and wide-legged trousers of her timeless Deauville style, jersey was merely the stuff used for men's underwear and hosiery. The man who made the jersey that Chanel stamped with her chic was Jacques Rodier, a name that has been synonymous with knitted fabric since the 1920s.

Rodier has continued to move with the times, switching the emphasis of his business in the 1950s from being mere suppliers of bolts of jersey cloth to the couturiers (Madame Gres, Christian Dior as well as Chanel) to creating their own knitwear collections. A franchised chain of Rodier shops opened in 1960 and there are now 500 of them across the world. Rodier ready-to-wear was launched in 1970, expanding the range from basic sweaters, cardigans and matching skirts (twin and tri-sets) to a complete wardrobe in knitted and spun fabrics, covering jersey of various weights from silky-fine for dresses and blouses to the double-weight and mohair quality essential for the timeless travel coat, as well as spun worsteds and flannels. In 1980 Rodier branched into menswear.

As the century moves into the 1990s, hi-tech jersey with its capacity to stretch, cling, drape, pack flat and then spring back into pristine shape, is clearly the star performer in every fashionable

wardrobe. The "knit", blunt fashion jargon for anything made from a knitted, not woven, fabric, be it coat or sun dress, polo shirt or pencil skirt, is fundamental to today's way of life.

The strength of Rodier's £190 million turnover (at retail) today is based on that successful marriage of Parisian style to almost a century's tradition in engineer

ing and developing knitted and spun textiles. Rodier's presence in this country, with 100 stockists (and one franchised Rodier shop in Nottingham), is about to be stamped more firmly on our fashion consciousness with the opening next week of a flagship store, opposite Harrods, on Brompton Road in Knightsbridge.

The new season's collection, designed by a team that includes Odile Lancon and Krystina Bukowska, will be there. Priced from about £50 (for a top), it comprises the shawl-collared, unlined travel coats, structured jackets and skirts that make up a Rodier wardrobe, with a wide range of plain, striped and marled knitted separates. In smooth jersey a sharp-lapelled double-breasted suit with short pencil skirt acquires a flattering gentleness. An evening sweater has a gossamer lace back. Teams of French actresses, working with Rodier designers, have recently added another dimension to the fashionable image by each creating their own capsule wardrobe. The results have included a line of plain and spotted taffeta dresses and evening jersey separates signed by Valerie Kaprisky; leggings, zippered tunics, long skinny pleated skirts in vanilla jersey from Marie-France Pisier; and dramatic low-backed sweater dresses along with more tailored suits in sober jacquards from Gabrielle Lazure.

The Rodier shop opens on July 20 at 106-108 Brompton Road, London SW1.



Yellow and black stripe Rodier style

JASPER CONRAN SHOP

Summer Sale

Up to 50% reductions

37 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 Telephone: 01-589 4243

TIMES DIARY

BARBARA AMIEL

At the weekend I fled to Berkshire to bicycle away from it all with friends. Interesting how out of touch one gets with the Highway Code. Somewhere south of Reading I noticed the sign "Changed Priorities Ahead", which I took to have a political or metaphysical aspect but it turned out to refer to the traffic flow. Whatever it means, I think it is a sort of Alvin Toffler jargonism we should unlearn rather than put on signs.

I am boning up on the Highway Code for my driving test and at the weekend I learned that a white stick with two reflector bands means that a pedestrian is deaf as well as blind. I can't see that this is really very pertinent. In England, pedestrians are put in their proper place, which is as a target except on zebra crossings. In North America, the pedestrian rules and cars halt immediately a foot is placed on the road.

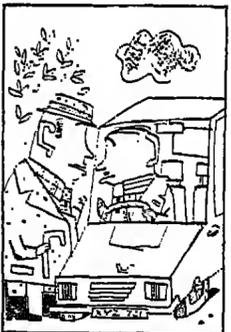
This arrogance is fuelled, I think, by the war against the car. Social planners would much prefer mass public transport for everyone. Cars are difficult to regulate and resist timetables. Still, one can't quite yet ban the car although every now and then some local authority in Ontario or New York suggests keeping them out of city centres. With this horrid threat hanging over their heads, drivers sit behind their wheels, miserable and vindictive, waiting for pedestrians to stroll across the road with fantasies of mowing them down playing like tiger cubs in their heads.

As we drove away from Reading, my friend Stefan Steiner remarked: "What puzzles me is that Doctors Higgs and Wyatt seem to have forced some of these children to have anal probes against their will, sometimes with nurses holding the protesting children down in the middle of the night, all because the doctors suspected someone else of having done the same thing."

I took his point. Watching Dr Higgs interviewed on television and listening to her on radio I was struck by her curious indifference to the damage that such an unwanted examination of this sort could do to a child. It must be as ghastly for a child as the crime of sexual abuse itself. No *mens rea*, of course, but I doubt if that makes the physical examination more tolerable for an infant or young child. Of course, it may be that in failing to get parental consent the whole action was *ultra vires* although the defence of good faith will probably be used.

But I am growing increasingly curious about Dr Higgs, who remains so implacable in the face of all evidence and testimony. What must she be thinking in her private moments as she goes over the events? I would like to know more about her.

BARRY FANTONI



'The Old Dun Cow? Follow the damaged police cars - you can't miss it'

You can't imagine what a relief it was to go to a party of thinking people nevertheless unable to make their opinions on the Butler-Sloss report heard over the din. This past week has been unimaginably gloomy ever since that daft judge came out with her report in which we learned that it was as unconvincing to try and stop Dr Higgs from examining children's bottoms against the will of both them and their parents as it was for Dr Higgs to do it.

Thank goodness for the *The Spectator* at Home, which was undoubtedly the best party of the year, rivalled only, I am told, by the party I missed last February. When the editor, Charles Moore, celebrated his wife Caroline's birthday at the Banqueting Hall, the front doorstep of *The Spectator's* Doughty Street offices was the only place which allowed freedom of movement and that was firmly staked out by William Letwin who, being from America some years ago, may still have a feel for wide open places. I am told that key members of the *Spectator* staff tried to persuade Charles Moore to move the party to quarters more roomy than the magazine's offices. He refused, and rightly so. This is the only party of the year where one can fall down drunk and no one notices.

I was all set to talk to Paul Johnson about his *Spectator* articles and had actually begun framing one of my leaden opening remarks but he didn't recognize me. "Here's a pretty girl," he said to no one in particular as I approached, "and no one would have noticed if I hadn't."

The Bodleian Library launched its fund-raising campaign last Tuesday with a very grand dinner in the Radcliffe Camera. The ladies were asked to wear evening dress and we all paraded across the Schools Quadrangle after a fanfare to eat dinner where no dinner had been served since 1814. All sorts of young people lined up to watch us hold up our skirts as we negotiated the paving stones. "Not college members," binned a professor's wife in front of me. "Only tourists would be interested in us."

The Bodleian needs £10 million and the Prince of Wales did a very good job of pitching for the money - much more businesslike than the college and university members, many of whom seemed more interested in their placement than much else. I was intrigued to hear how many Americans were involved in saving the Bodleian and wondered if this time the British would dig into their pockets and begin a New Thatcherite tradition of charity with the splendid example of Iona Opie as their model.

The people of Kensington will vote in Thursday's by-election unswayed by big hoardings or daily full-page advertisements like those last June urging them "Vote Conservative" or "Vote Labour". The reason is simple. Each candidate is allowed by law to spend only a modest total of £4,703 on the campaign. That does not pay for the poster sites and newspaper advertisements which dominate British general elections, on which there is no expenditure limit.

The law on election expenses is outdated and illogical. The increasing imbalance between party and candidates' expenditure is bad for everyone. Higher limits are needed for individual candidates to cover all forms of publicity.

The theory is that in Britain we have strict controls on election expenses. Candidates' expenses are limited during the campaign, but there are no limits on expenditure by parties and their supporting pressure groups, or on pre-election publicity. Since there is no obligation to declare party expenditure, it is impossible to be sure what it is.

Candidates' total expenditure in the 1987 general election was about £7.5 million. But in their Nuffield study of the election David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh estimate that the parties' national expenditure was

Michael Tugendhat points up an anomaly in the electoral law

Check those blank cheques

twice that, at about £15 million. That is a 100 per cent increase over 1983. So far as it is possible to tell, this seems to follow a trend since 1948, and increases are likely to continue.

The legislation was most recently amended in 1985 after a parliamentary committee had reviewed the whole of election law in 1982-83. But the provisions on candidates' expenses are an anachronism. When the limits were introduced in 1983 they were much higher in real terms than they are today and were gradually reduced until 1988, since when they have more or less kept pace with inflation. But very few general election candidates see the need to spend up to the limit. The real campaigns are fought through television and the press and in the relatively few marginal constituencies.

The main effect of the limits is to distort the parties' publicity campaigns. Party expenditure has at least to appear to be national. If it were concentrated

on one or a group of marginal constituencies, it would have to be counted as part of each candidate's limit. That is why there can be no extra party publicity at by-elections.

Similarly it has to be impersonal. Advertisements can carry only the party message "Do (or do not) vote Conservative or Labour or whatever". In the French general election two months ago the names and faces of Messrs Mitterrand and Chirac appeared on countless posters. British posters showed the party leader's face it might help to secure the election of the rest of the party's candidates but the leader's election would be invalidated.

Reality demands the opposite, so loopholes are found. If the leader cannot be promoted by direct publicity, publicity has to be disguised as news. So we have the daily election press conference with elaborate props and expensive settings. The leaders' campaigns are designed to provide "photo opportunities" for

the evening news bulletin and the next day's front page.

The media co-operate, but the parties have only limited control over what is produced and the cost is concealed. So long as the media treat each party's campaign as more or less equally newsworthy this is not unfair. But complaints are inevitable. The two Davids were not always as newsworthy as Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnoch, and the press sometimes declined their invitations to treat their favourite issue as the most newsworthy.

As every viewer of an election-night broadcast knows, it is the results in the key marginals that determine who forms the next government. So every party concentrates on those. But either the publicity really is national and money is wasted in safe seats, or avoidance becomes evasion: the publicity is concentrated where it is needed and the limits are simply ignored.

The smaller the party's funds the greater the dilemma this poses. It causes a waste of

resources for all parties, it is unfair to small parties and it treats candidates as mere party representatives, rather than as important individuals.

Meanwhile in the constituencies it is impossible to make full use of modern equipment. Candidates and volunteer canvassers can go from door to door as they have done for a hundred years, and they can spend as much as they like on travelling to do so. That is all personal expense. But electors cannot be reached by telephone or personal letters produced by computer because that would quickly break the limit.

Controlling the costs of elections is necessary if they are to be fair. And if parties regularly need to raise millions of pounds to fight general elections they will appear, rightly or wrongly, to be under undue pressure from their benefactors. It is not good for the country if the parties become financially dependent on a particular section of the community. That dependence is one

reason why Labour, dependent as it is on the trade unions, is not a credible party of government. The unions, incidentally, are the only bodies apart from candidates whose expenditure on political purposes is controlled by law.

For controls on parties to be effective, they must also apply to their supporting pressure groups, providing freedom of speech is not curtailed. Some trade unions have shown that they want to spend large sums on general elections. Many other pressure groups did so in 1987, including Aims of Industry and CND.

All forms of control involve some anomalies, whether it be a limit on total expenditure, a limit on specific forms of expenditure or limits on the amounts of contributions that can be made by individuals and other bodies such as exist in America. But there is no reason why parties and pressure groups should not be subject to limits as candidates now are.

The restraint which candidates show might mean that no controls are necessary, in which case the system introduced in 1983 is irrelevant. But it is more likely that the problem that system was designed to deal with has changed with time and what we are left with is more loophole than law. *The author is a Queen's Counsel.*

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Besieged but celebrating

Northern Ireland Protestants today celebrate the tercentenary of the Glorious Revolution and will continue celebrating it longer than the English. For the Ulster Protestants 1988 is only the first of a series of annual commemorations known as "the 300s". For them the events which English people think of as constituting the Glorious Revolution - the flight of James II and the accession of William to the throne - were only a prelude to liberation.

Throughout 1688 Roman Catholics continued to hold power in most of Ireland, including most of Ulster. And just as the events of 1688 were only a prelude for Ulster Protestants, so today's commemoration is no more than a prelude to the greater and far more emotive commemorations of 1989 and 1990.

The really big one, I think, will be 1989, which will commemorate the successful resistance of the Protestants at Enniskillen and Derry, culminating in the lifting of the siege of Derry. That event is annually celebrated in the March of the Apprentice Boys in Derry on August 12. Normally, the proceedings in Derry are overshadowed by July 12, anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne. But next year, because of the tercentenary, it will be the other way round. The big day will be August 12.

1989 will be the high point in the commemorative cycle for two main reasons. First, in 1989, the heroes to be commemorated are Ulster people: the successful defenders of Enniskillen and Derry. Second, the form of heroism shown - the capacity to endure under siege - is of poignant relevance to the present predicament of the Protestants of Northern Ireland.

Many people think it is nonsense to refer to the Ulster Protestants as a besieged people; they just have a siege mentality it is said, simply imagine things. But they are not imagining things. The siege is a daily reality of life in Northern Ireland and is

most palpable at the periphery, as is the way with sieges.

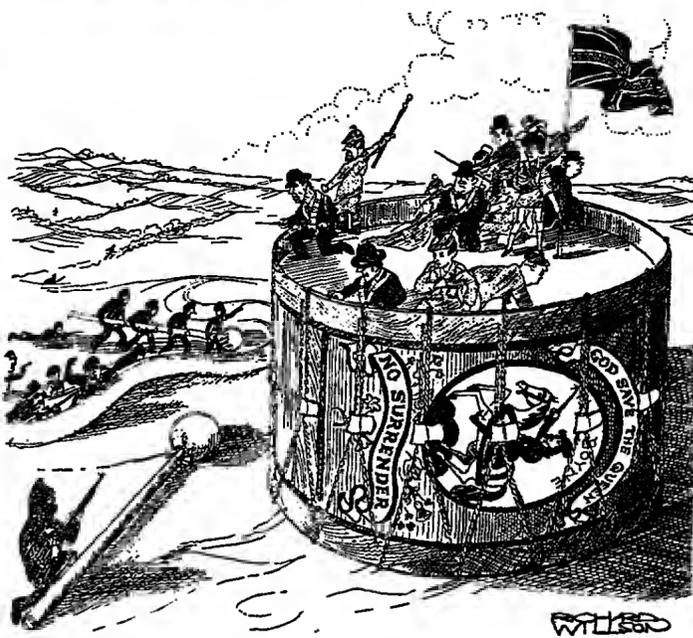
Some years ago I made a short tour of the County Fermanagh border areas, talking to Protestants. Each Protestant family, each Protestant shop, each Protestant farm, felt itself the object of a potentially lethal hostility, coming from the Catholic majority around them. I spoke to one widow whose husband had been picked off with an IRA Armalite as he worked on his farm. She didn't think any of the Catholic neighbours had done it, but she was not talking to any of them any more. She thought the gunman was probably a stranger, from across the border, a mile or so away. "But he must have had help. He knew his way around. One of my Catholic neighbours was in it. And how can I know which one?"

Naturally Protestants tend to leave such exposed areas. Shops and farms once owned by Protestants are now in Catholic hands. Some of the Protestants who left went to Enniskillen. And some of those were among the victims of last year's Poppy Day massacre.

Certain IRA atrocities in Co Fermanagh - particularly Poppy Day, and the recent planting of a bomb in a school bus at Lisnaskea - have caused waves of revulsion among many Catholics on both sides of the border. Sinn Fein has tried to shelter its IRA masters from responsibility by spreading the word that there are some kind of maverick IRA units in Fermanagh not amenable to central control.

In fact what has been going on in Co Fermanagh appears to be part of a predetermined strategy. If you can clear Protestants out of border areas through death and the fear of death, then the new exclusively Catholic areas will be state territory for the IRA. And you can move on from there.

The ultimate objective is to make the Protestants choose between getting out of Northern Ireland altogether and giving in. It might take generations to get



to that point. In the meantime every Protestant shop or farm that goes down is a step on the road to the great goal.

So there is a siege going on. The image of a past deliverance from a siege is therefore a powerful and comforting one. Not merely in 1989, but also this year: the Siege of Derry began in December 1688.

In theory, of course, the high point of the commemorative cycle ought to be the July 12, 1990 tercentenary of the Battle of the Boyne, traditionally seen as the decisive victory. Actually I suspect 1990 will be a bit of an anti-climax. The image of triumph on a battlefield is hardly relevant to the circumstances of

the 1990s. What fits those circumstances is the example of the ancestors who endured a siege and saw it through to the end, 300 and 301 years ago.

It can reasonably be argued, of course, that Ulster Protestants have brought many of their present troubles on themselves, and not least through their obsession with commemorative marches. This is true especially of that comparatively brief period - just over 50 years, 1921 to 1972 - when the Protestants were in control of Northern Ireland's political institutions.

The annual spectacle, in those years, of the Northern Ireland government's commemoration of Protestant victories over

Catholics impressed on the Catholics the fact that they were subjects, not citizens, of the province in which they lived. Dragons' teeth were sown in those years. By no coincidence, the present phase of troubles began on the occasion of a march: that of the Apprentice Boys in Derry on August 12, 1969, commemorating the 280th anniversary of the lifting of the siege. Those proceedings culminated in an inversion of what was being commemorated.

By the end of the week it was the Catholics who were besieged, by Protestant forces, in Derry's Bogside. Then the British troops arrived, to deliver the Catholics from the Protestants. And

among the Catholics so delivered the Provisional IRA began to grow.

The commemorative marches have always had a markedly triumphalist character. But they are not, basically, triumphalist in motivation. In the years when Protestant ascendancy appeared secure - roughly the century from 1691 to 1791 - no strong commemorative urge was manifest. The first big marches came in 1829, with Catholic Emancipation. And marching did not become institutionalized throughout the province until 1886, after the introduction of Gladstone's Home Rule Bill.

What the marches reflect, from their beginning, is a fear of betrayal by the British into the hands of the Catholics. That was the raw nerve that was hit by the Anglo-Irish Agreement. None of the framers of that document knew, or cared to know, much about the Ulster Protestants.

No one can ever be sure how any particular Twelfth is going to turn out. The organizers of today's hope to keep the proceedings orderly, and within the law. But there are others around, on both sides, who may have different ideas. And this is the first Twelfth since the Poppy Day massacre.

John Hume, leader of the Social and Democratic Labour Party, said recently that it is the Catholics who have suffered most from the IRA campaign. This may be an effective argument in the context in which it was used, but it doesn't happen to be true. Most of the Northern Ireland people killed by the IRA have been Protestants. And Protestants see the Anglo-Irish Agreement as a concession to Catholics won by the IRA.

Today's march may possibly trigger off violence - sometimes in the past, but if it goes off without mishap it may provide a relatively harmless channel for the release of pent-up feelings which might otherwise have found vent in violence.

Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

A code for Mr Smooth

There was just one moment of pregnant hush at the Institute of Directors' conference on "Choosing and Using Lobbyists" - when an intrepid businessman asked the panelists what the services of a government affairs adviser or lobbyist actually cost.

Both Robert Parker-Eaton, the external affairs director of Britannia Airways, as a customer, and Charles Miller, chief executive of Public Policy Consultants as a practitioner, told him to expect to pay around £2,500 a month, and up to £5,000 a month if lobbying was required as well.

At £30,000-£60,000 a year for a client it is no wonder the lobbying business is booming. In any decent restaurant within a limousine's purr of Westminster today you are flanked by Jermyn Street-shirted smoothies with well-practised pouring arms, introducing clients to a peer they once met on the 6.08 back from a conference in Leeds.

MPs' postbags are crammed with unsolicited glossy presentations. At Ascot and Glydebourne as many political elbows are grasped as gulls' eggs are consumed.

The IOD conference last week underlined that most of this expenditure is wasted. It rarely reaches the right people, being targeted at MPs rather than Whitehall decision-makers, and almost certainly begins too late. Most of the glossy brochures are not read. When a PR man boasts of his contacts and promises to wheel along two dozen MPs to a luncheon next week you can be sure that the MPs

whose diaries are empty enough at that notice are (a) not worth having and (b) likely to have attended so many such functions over the previous fortnight that three days later they will not remember the name of your company, let alone your special cause.

But all this does not mean that the Committee on Members' Interests should seek to kill off the infant profession. For a start you cannot restrict access to the institutions of a democratic society. How would you, for example, weed out the directors of lobbying companies who double as MPs' research assistants? And the professionals among the lobbyists offer a service which benefits companies and Whitehall alike. Government decisions do affect profits, planning and employment.

Companies do not dream of going into court without a lawyer or of tackling the Inland Revenue without an accountant. Where they can employ genuine expertise to help them make their case in Whitehall there is no reason why they should not do so. It is up to government to ensure equity between individual pleaders.

For the corporations it could be a lot cheaper spending £50,000 a year on a top quality lobbyist than staffing a government affairs unit of its own. The members of such a unit may read the debates and comb the amendments, but they will not know the difference between the gleam in an ideologue's eye, a little necessary political posturing and a genuine intention to legislate. They will miss the

Whitehall manoeuvre designed to protect a departmental boundary or the long-standing personality clash.

In America, where it is coupled with a tradition of people moving in and out of politics, academia and business, lobbying is a long-established and largely respectable business, an understood part of the political scene which helps to produce a better-informed civil service. Here it is under suspicion because there are too many shallow practitioners with no more than a smattering of knowledge of Westminster telling their clients they are emperors so they can sell them new clothes.

The truth is that neither contacts alone nor a good lunch are the way to achieve results today. Most ministers are so well lunched by political correspondents that they are watching their waistlines anyway. They are far more impressed by thorough research, pithily presented in a 15-minute meeting with experts on hand.

If your government affairs adviser tells you he will mobilize an army of MPs to back your cause, he is probably the wrong man. For the company seeking to influence government decisions it is probably too late. Ministers dislike climbing down when legislation is before the Commons. The genuine lobbyist gets you in at the time when decisions are first being made, before the issue of the green paper.

A flock of tame MPs bleating on Second Reading of a Bill is nothing compared to a quiet discussion between the leaders of

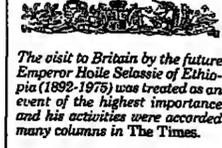
an affected industry and key civil servants at the time when policy ideas are floating between Number Ten and departmental committees.

What business wants from the lobbyist, one contributor put it at the IOD conference, is to have the decision-making system as far as is legally possible wired for sound. But the process of contact for companies which matter should be permanent and two-way. Civil servants like to give ministers good advice. For that they need to know ahead of time what industry itself is planning.

The problem is that there are still so many bad lobbyists. So how do you tell them apart? Charles Miller told the conference to beware firms which do not insist on vetting and corroborating the company's case before letting it near government and to look for those which talk sense rather than drop names. He warned them to avoid one-man bands and those who offer only parliamentary consultancy. And he urged them to look for firms whose staff include former civil servants who had served at the rank of principal or above.

What is required too, and what he has so far failed to persuade his fledgling profession to set up, is an effectively regulated register offering a "kitemark" for lobbyist firms which are willing to submit for examination their literature, staff and qualifications, to subscribe to an agreed code of conduct and to operate some form of consumer complaints procedure. On their fees, they could afford it.

JULY 12 ON THIS DAY 1924



The visit to Britain by the future Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (1892-1975) was treated as an event of the highest importance and his activities were accorded many columns in *The Times*.

PRINCE TAFARI

A long visit was paid yesterday by H.H. Tafari Makonnen, Her-Apparent and Prince Regent of Abyssinia, to the Foreign Office, where he was received by the Prime Minister, Mr Arthur Ponsonby and Sir Eyre Crowe. Mr Claude Russell, the British Minister in Abyssinia, who is now in this country, was also present, and the visit was so prolonged that the intended inspection of the United Services Museum had to be postponed until today.

Prince Tafari, together with Ras Haile, Governor of Goffam, Ras Siyumu, Governor of Tigre, and Ras Nado, Governor of Goresi, had accepted an invitation to lunch with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Davidson at Lambeth Palace at 1 o'clock. On account of the length of his visit to the Foreign Office, the Prince had to drive straight from there to Lambeth.

The guests included the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury and the Bishop in Egypt (Dr Gwynne), Bishop Gonsalves, Dean of Canterbury, Lord Salisbury, Lord Selborne, Lord Beauchamp, and Lord Hugh Cecil. The PRIMATE, in a speech welcoming Prince Tafari, said that never before had Lambeth received a visit from a ruler of the Abyssinian people whose Church in respect of antiquity stood in the

front rank among the Christian communities of the world. That Church inherited and maintained the traditions of some 16 centuries of Christianity, and could trace its origin, it was said, yet further back to the very days of the Apostles of our Lord. But the Prince was no mere inheritor of an ancient faith and of ancient usages. It was his glory to be now promoting for his people all that furthered Christian progress.

In the afternoon Prince Tafari visited Westminster Abbey, where he was rejoined by his suite, and the whole party spent half an hour visiting the grave of the Unknown Warrior and some of the most historic parts of the building.

At the Unknown Warrior's grave two of the suite placed a handsome and distinctive tribute from Abyssinia on the stone. It consisted of two large elephant tusks joined together at the top by a silver mounting handsomely chased, while the base of the tusks was also mounted in silver. A silver plaque, with the Lion of Abyssinia carved on it, was fixed between the tusks, and the main lower portion of the space was occupied by a large wreath of Abyssinian leaves and berries in a whitish metal.

Some time was spent by the party in Edward the Confessor's Chapel, and the Prince Regent was particularly interested in the history of the Stone of Destiny in the Coronation chair. The banners of the Knights of the Bath in Henry VII's Chapel also attracted attention.

His Imperial Highness stayed to evensong, having expressed a special wish to hear the service, and then motored direct to Windsor Castle, where he spent nearly two hours examining the State Apartments and their treasures. In the evening he dined with Lord Chelmsford at Admiralty House.

Joshi malito

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 11: The Duke of Edinburgh, President WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature International - this morning inaugurated the Pioneer Centre at the Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust, Pensthorpe, Fakenham, Norfolk.

The Princess Royal later opened and toured the new passenger check-in concourse at Bristol Airport, escorted by the Managing Director, Bristol Airport, Mr. J. W. Wilson.

Mr M.C. Brown and Miss S.M.C. Owsley The engagement is announced between Matthew, third son of the Rev. Michael and Mrs. Brown, of Godalming, Surrey, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Owsley, of Nanteuil-Aurillac-de-Bourzac, France.

Mr R.J. Polley and Miss M.M. Graham The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Polley, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and Merryn, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs Robin Graham, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr N.J. Everard and Miss M. Yoshino The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs George Everard, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, and Michiko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Yasuro Yoshino, of Tokyo, Japan.

Mr H.T. Snowden and Mrs P.C.J. Sanders The engagement is announced between H. Taft Snowden Jr. of Washington, DC, and Philippa Sanders of London and Nairobi. The marriage will take place on July 30, in Gloucester, Virginia.

Mr P. Eckersley and Miss A.C. Morris The engagement is announced between Patrick, second son of the late Reverend Canon C.A.W. Eckersley and of Mrs Eckersley, of Brampton, Cumbria, and Ann, younger daughter of Lieutenant Commander W.D. Morris, Royal Canadian Navy (retired) and Mrs Morris, of Walnut Tree Cottage, Hambleton, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Greaves and Miss L.L. Boyle The engagement is announced between Stephen John, son of Dr and Mrs Cyril Booth, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr Anthony Skinner, of Bradninch, Devon, and Mrs Marlene Maguire, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr R.A. Hamilton and Miss S.C. Knight The engagement is announced between Roddy, son of Brigadier and Mrs Bruce Hamilton, of Glencairn House, Perthshire, and Cynthia, only daughter of the late Captain Archie Burdett Blackett, of Arbigland, Kirkcubrightshire, and of Mrs Archie Burdett Blackett, now of Hurlingham, London.

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Julius Caesar, Rome, 100BC; Henry, David Thoreau, Concord, Massachusetts, 1817; Sir William Osler, physician, Bond Head, Ontario, 1849; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, New York, 1854; Stefan George, poet, Badensheim, Germany, 1868; F.E. Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor (1929-32), Birkenhead, 1872; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Leghorn, 1884; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Hamar, Norway, 1895; Pablo Neruda, poet and diplomat, Nobe laureate 1971, Parral, Chile, 1904.

Latest wills Mr Eric William Towler, of Willett House, Lydard St Lawrence, Somerset, formerly of Clifton Park, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, late company director, left estate valued at £9,300,488 net. He stated that he had made generous provision for various charities during his life and left his estate variously to family and other personal legatees.

Chigwell School Mr Anthony Little, at present Head of English and a Housemaster at Brennwood School, has been appointed Headmaster of Chigwell School from September 1989 when Mr Brian Wilson retires after eighteen years in the post.

Felsted School The Friends of Felsted School Major Appeal has reached £1 million towards its target of £1.45 million. Two of the major objectives, a studio theatre and an all-weather pitch, are completed. The new dining hall complex will be in use by April 1989, after which work will start on the refurbishment of boarding houses. Donations may be sent to The Appeal Office, Felsted School, Ingram's Close, Freepost, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3BR.

Holmwood House Summer Term at Holmwood House Preparatory School, Lexden, Colchester, ended on Saturday with the retirement as headmasters of Stuart Duggan and Jeremy Lucas. During the year seven public school scholarships have been gained, eight pupils have been selected for IAFS music courses; the school won the Preparatory School Squash Doubles; gained the most points at the Oundle Regional Athletics meeting and won the J.E.T. National Independent Schools' under 13 Cricket Tournament.

The Oratory School The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Maurice Jones as headmaster with effect from January 1, 1989, in succession to Mr Adrian Snow who is retiring.

Philharmonia Trust The Prince of Wales will host a gala concert and dinner at St James's Palace on July 21, 1988 in aid of the Philharmonia Trust. Tickets are available from Mr Vincent Meyer, Philharmonia Trust, telephone 01-280 9061.

RSA medal Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has been awarded the Alben Medal by the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of his "outstanding contributions towards peace and unity in the Commonwealth". It is to be presented by the Duke of Edinburgh, the society's president. The medal is the society's principal award; former holders include all British monarchs since Queen Victoria.

Memorial service The Duke of Edinburgh attended a dinner last night at Whitebread Street, given by the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Armada. Admiral Sir James Eberle presided and the Earl of Eberingham was the guest of the club.

Today's royal engagement The Princess Royal, President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend the 1988 Missions to Seamen World Conference at Churchill College, Cambridge, at 9.35.

Thanksgiving service Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Crossley A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Crossley was held on July 9 at Goodwood House, The Rev. Robert Aiton, Rector of Lavant, officiated. The Earl of March read the lesson and Herr Kalman de Jutrak was an address. Mrs Wynne Stone sang 'Pie Jesu' from Faure's Requiem.

Memorial service The Prime Minister attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP, held yesterday at St Margaret's, Westminster. Canon Donald Gray officiated, assisted by the Rev. Ian Robson. The Bishop of Birmingham led the lesson. Major Sir James Scott-Hopkins, MEP, read from speeches by Winston Churchill and Mr Kenneth Baker. MP, read 'I'll be with you' by Rudyard Kipling. The Speaker gave an address. Mr Edward Heath, MP, was represented by Mr Richard Burn. The Lord President of the Council, the Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Lord

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ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA (Charity No. 231323) Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of our vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer - so severely that you would hardly know.

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OBITUARY AIR CDRE FERDINAND WEST Britain's oldest Victoria Cross



Air Commodore Ferdinand West, VC, CBE, MC, the oldest surviving British Victoria Cross holder, died on July 8 at the age of 92. West won his VC in the Royal Flying Corps in 1918 when engaging superior numbers of German aircraft far over enemy lines. Later he transferred to the RAF serving in a number of interesting posts until his retirement in 1946.

West had to have his left leg amputated, but this did not prevent him obtaining a commission in the RAF after the war. In the following years his linguistic talents found their place in diplomatic posts in Rome and Paris, and he also served in British legations in Helsinki, Riga, Tallin, and Kovno. During the war he was employed in intelligence at the British Legation in Berne.

LORD WOLVERTON

John Patrick Riversdale Glyn, sixth Baron Wolverton, who died on July 4 aged 75, came of a family distinguished in British banking for over two centuries. It was Wolverton who was chosen at the critical juncture by the then Governor of the Bank of England and the London clearing banks to head up the rescue operation, known as the "life boat", in the mid 1970s, of the First National Finance Corporation when it was in serious difficulties.

For 20 years he was one of the managing directors, but became increasingly unhappy as the firm's gradual loss of identity within the Royal Bank of Scotland group. When in 1970 Glyn Mills was merged with Williams Deacons to form Williams Deacons and Glyn, he felt the old family bank eclipsed and left, transferring his strong sense of service and knowledge of banking into a new career as a city chairman.

AIR CDRE IAN ALLAN

Air Commodore John Watson (Ian) Allan, DSO, DFC, AFC, who died on July 9, at the age of 70, was one of that select band of Mosquito aces of World War II, and held the world record for an RAF fighter pilot of five enemy aircraft shot down in a single sortie, while on night fighter operations over the Mediterranean.

By the summer of 1943, by which time Watson had become a flight commander of a Mosquito squadron, the story was very different. The Mosquito, with its air interception radar and its armament of four 20mm cannon and four Browning machine guns, was soon to become known as the terror of the night skies of Europe. Allan's squadron was sent to Malta to harry the German and Italian aircraft trying to prevent the invasion of Sicily, and in a very short time he had notched up a remarkable tally of victories, in partnership with his navigator, an Australian, Flight Lieutenant J. Davidson.

DR RAGNAR SVANSTRÖM

Dr Ragnar Svanström, the eminent Swedish publisher and historian, has died at the age of 84. Svanström was a courageous, pre-Alamein supporter of the Allies during the Second World War and was the founder of the American British Swedish dining club in 1940.

SIR ANTONY FISHER

Sir Antony Fisher, AFC, who died on July 9, aged 73, will be chiefly remembered as the founder or instigator of "think tanks" in many countries. For someone who was not academic, and was not generally well-known, his indirect influence on the intellectual climate was remarkable.

RT REV GEOFFREY SNELL

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Stuart Snell who died on July 8 at the age of 67 was a man who placed his many and varied talents at the service of the Anglican Church both at home and overseas. To his work for the Church - to which he came relatively late in life - he brought a temperament and gifts which had been shaped by his years in the Army, the Civil Service, and in management.

Snell was founder-director of the Christian Organisations Research and Advisory Trust. From 1975-77 he devoted himself to helping the churches overseas, especially in Africa, towards the better organisation of their work. In 1977 he was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Croydon. He combined this work in south London with that of the Archbishop's Representative with the Armed Forces.

THE ARTS

John Russell Taylor considers an artist who was in danger of being remembered only for his excesses

Restoring a canvas-ripper

GALLERIES

Fontana
Whitechapel Art Gallery
Claes Oldenburg
Serpentine

It is not so easy to be a modern classic as the hype-merchants of the art world would like us to believe. Acceptance is so often only conditional, and memories are so short. What, for example, of Lucio Fontana? Most of us, 20 years after his death, know only one thing about him: that he slashed his canvases. Was that his only claim to fame? If so, it is enough for us to take his classic status on trust?

Now we can go to the Whitechapel Art Gallery, where the Fontana show is on until September 18, to find out for ourselves. What we start with are not paintings at all, but sculptures, and quite representational sculptures at that. The earliest works at Whitechapel date from 1931 (there were earlier works at the show's previous venue in Amsterdam), and at that time Fontana was already 32, already formed as an artist. In the succeeding works we make our way with impeccable logic through a variety of progressively less explicit sculptures, which nevertheless never lose touch altogether with the external physical world, and culminate in the extraordinary terracotta frieze of 1947 called "Battle", a tangle of

writhing forms which convey vividly the idea of men and horses locked in conflict without ever descending to the anecdotal.

Thus prepared, we move on to Fontana the painter. But we already fully understand that any hard-and-fast distinction would be misleading: for him painting is, right from the beginning, something striving toward the three-dimensional, a spacial concept, to use his favourite phrase. To begin with, the painted surface is peppered with little glass pebbles. Later, we find earth and sand and cheap sponges added to the mixture, along with collaged canvases and a liberal allowance of the arbitrary and accidental. Many of these works have a quite unaccountable mystery and magic about them, as though in them Fontana is charting some unknown region with hallucinatory precision.

With the slashed works, "action" and the arbitrary come in with a bang. According to the artist's own account, one day he slashed a canvas on his easel in a fit of exasperation, and found that he had been presented with a gift from the gods. It must also be said that the later works in the show, dating from the Fifties and Sixties, however they were originally executed, have mercifully little of the arbitrary and uncontrolled about them.

In other words, forget all the journalistic excesses about the "mad men of painting", and just use your eyes. Seen thus, Fontana is the most satisfying show at Whitechapel in some time. This is presumably Nicholas Serota's last show there before he moves to the Tate. He is going out in style.



Battle: Fontana's terracotta frieze

Claes Oldenburg is perhaps a more dubious proposition as a modern classic. But if so, it is surely by his own choice. A commanding figure, he wilfully refuses to command: there is altogether too much giggling.

But because he persists in seeing the lighter side of things, does that necessarily mean that he is an irredeemably minor artist? After going round the current show at the Serpentine Gallery, *A Book of Notes and Some Voyages* (until August 29), and even after a lot of mirth and wonderment at the sheer gleeful nonsense of his inspiration, it is very hard indeed to withhold



Striking imagery: Oldenburg's giant burnt-out match-stick, linked to both nuclear disarmament and Aids

some higher accolade than court jester — even if, one suspects, Oldenburg would think there was no higher accolade to be accorded. For 20 years or more, Oldenburg's speciality has been to play with our sense of scale and, perhaps even more, our sense of propriety. In his mind things which are usually minute are explored for their possibilities of limitless magnification. If a campus wants a rostrum for student speech-makers, why not build it in the shape of a giant lipstick pointing rocket-like to the sky? And an extra expressive touch: why not make it inflatable?

Who but Oldenburg, thinking of a suitable memorial for Thoreau, would remember that he was by trade a pencil-maker, and so envisage a great eroded pencil in the middle of a forest, deeply ambiguous as to whether someone deliberately put it there, or if just happened? His images can assume more serious connotations, however: as he points out, his giant burnt-out match-stick, though conceived with no particular programme in mind, has been linked to both the need for nuclear disarmament and to the agonizing quandary of Aids.

The notebook scribbles here have often never come to anything more, but on the other hand, it is surprising how many of Oldenburg's most seemingly impossible dreams have come true. He nowadays often works in tandem with his wife Coosje van Bruggen, but still the quintessential Oldenburg seems to be glimpsed in solo notions like the screw-cemetery he thought of after reading that São Paulo is so short of space they were thinking of building multi-storey graveyards: you would stand a giant screw on its tip, and progressively fill the groove with the burials; as you did so, you would gradually screw it into the earth. Is he serious? Well, no, and yet yes, and all those degrees in between where a modern classic may well be secretly lurking. Let us hope we shall not have to wait 20 years after his death in order to figure that one out.

John Russell Taylor

CONCERT

LSO/Jarvi
Barbican Hall

Putting the symphony first instead of last, as Neeme Jarvi did in his concert with the London Symphony Orchestra, was not entirely to the work's advantage. It failed to take account of inevitable late comers, who broke the continuity after the first movement while they tramped about in search of seats, and also found the orchestral playing considerably rougher in places than it had any right to be for Brahms's Third Symphony, which is not exactly unfamiliar.

On the other hand the conductor's often lumpy performance of it gave a strange cast of character to the work, constantly emphasizing this or that point of phrasing or punctuation, and following a lingering *andante* movement with hardly the slightest change of pace to make the *poes allegretto* any different.

Poulenc's breezy and beguiling Two-piano Concerto brought a visit from the Labèque Sisters, Katia and Marielle, whose aggressive style in attacking the keyboard as if it were a barrier instead of a means to communication quite obliterated much of the subtlety as well as impudence to be found in the music. It's homage to various classical models was obvious, but the essence of Poulenc's invention was lost.

For the *Fineberg*, Jarvi interestingly chose Stravinsky's 1945 score, which is substantially longer than the usual concert suite and comprises about two thirds of the full ballet, as the programme failed to make clear. With the brass boosted by an extra trumpet and trombone on this occasion the *tone-painting* was more lurid than scintillating, but the conducting seemed to be very much geared to the music's visual associations in the vivid and wide dynamic range.

Noël Goodwin

Extracting Michael

TELEVISION

When George Bush was fading away in the last presidential primaries, his campaign manager admitted the candidate had a "name recognition problem" which meant that no-one had heard of him.

Bush does not have that problem now, but nor does his opponent Michael Dukakis, who has achieved nationwide recognition much sooner. But we are a bit hazy over here as to what he stands for, and *Panorama* (BBC1) made a good job of unravelling the issues, or the images, on which he will be judged.

"When I look at Dukakis's body language on TV," said one young media-aware Los Angeles businessman, "I think he looks very up-right". An odd comment, for in conversation with Fred Emery, you could almost see Dukakis's brain in a state of ultimate relaxation, cranking up towards the next non-committal cliché. He was looking forward to dealing with Mrs Thatcher and thought they would agree on some

issues and disagree on others. Yes, indeed.

Dukakis has built his reputation on the economic turn-around of Massachusetts during his governorship. His critics, even among the Democrats, say that no more than 5 or 10 per cent of that was due to him personally, but his supporters looked to him to extend his policies of affordable health care for all to the whole nation. That, however, is not a winning ticket among the prosperous new blacks in the South who voted for Jesse Jackson in the primaries; we saw here some doubts about transferring allegiance from Jackson to Dukakis. Equally, he has a problem with the whites in the Jimmy Carter homeland of Plains, Georgia, in keeping the Jackson factor at bay; too soon for a black on the ticket, one farmer was heard to say:

So it adds up, as usual, to an impossible balancing act. Dukakis's old classmate said Mike was always good at keeping in with different interest groups; it is a skill he will need in abundance over the next few months.

William Holmes

Nonsenses and sensibilities . . .

OPERA IN THE USA

Apart from the *Vanessa* and *Bohème* I mentioned in an earlier review, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis's 13th season offered *Oberon* and *La finta giardiniera*, both in productions with the company's artistic director Colin Graham in their pedigree. The Weber was quite new, and produced by Graham for the occasion; the Mozart stemmed from a version he did for English Music Theatre in the mid-1970s, and was here produced by Nicholas Muni.

With *Oberon*, Graham did what he does perhaps best, creating the impression of a superior picture-book come to life. Magic is not easy to achieve on a thrust stage, but the use of portable scenery (flat like that of a toy theatre) and swirling draperies kept the show moving, and Emanuele Luzzati had the right idea in creating his costume designs in clashing colour combinations and collages of marbled paper. Everything suggested that recent attempts to make sense of the piece (as at Scottish Opera) have been quite in vain: it is to be seen simply as a magnificent farago, and performed with zest and a just modicum of irony.

The intentionally naive exuberance extended to John Nelson's conducting of his own

musical edition, which, among other adaptations, added from elsewhere a Weber song for Sherasmin, the Pedrillo-Papageno figure, in an opera that here seemed much more a decadent offshoot from Mozart than a premonition of Wagner.

It would be hard to complain about such fiddlings with the text on grounds of authenticity, the work being so ramshackle (and in any event the new song proved a show-stopper), since James Michael McGuire's performance as Sherasmin was vivid with energy and confidence: sung with a beckoning allure, charmingly plausible and athletic, this was surely a study for a notable Don Giovanni.

Opposite him was Melanie Sonnenberg as Fatima, richly seductive and at the same time brightly witty. The noble couple were Michael Myers, a bit too suffering and weighty a character for *fiery*, and Nova Thomas, who gave a trilling account of her great scene as Rezia (the name changed from Reiza for sensible reasons of singability). Allan Glassman was a stentorian baritone Oberon.

La finta giardiniera was also given in an edited version, with spoken dialogue by Edmund Tracey. The omission of Mozart's — even the adolescent Mozart's — recitatives was perhaps slightly more regrettable than the doctoring of *Oberon*.



Pretending garden girl Joan Gibbons with Mark Thomson, as Belfore

However, Tracey's lines, particularly those he gives to Arminda, do suggest more the 18th Century of George Feyer than that of Richardson or Sheridan. Poor Carol Gale was handed with a toffee-nosed personality it was hard to sing through, and similarly Tracy Dahl as Serpette was obliged to be a caricature of a fidgeting maidservant.

Muni gave his singers no roundness and even worked against them with an excess of business during arias, often to the extent of

provoking laughs during what ought to have been poignant reflections.

Only Susan Benson's Fragonard-inspired designs, and the elegant performances of Joan Gibbons as the pretending garden-girl and Donna Stephenson as Ramiro, showed the right touch. Members of the St Louis Symphony Orchestra, under Roger Nierenberg, were stretched and clumsy.

Paul Griffiths

OPERA

Die Entführung aus dem Serail
Glyndebourne

The curtain has come down on Glyndebourne's *Entführung* with all the assurance and alacrity which John Higgins, seven weeks ago, witnessed at its raising.

Its casting has been its great strength, and all eyes and ears have been focused on the changing fortunes of its Belmonte and Constanze. Kurt Streit shared the role of Belmonte for seven performances and proved himself a musical *Beaumarchais* supreme.

His muscular and agile tenor seemed capable of doing anything that is required of it; and Streit has the musical intelligence to know exactly what that is. This Belmonte was that rare fusion of ardently engaged acting with an equally acute response to the very nerve system of Mozart's writing. He must return to England soon.

Towards the end of its run, Rosa Manouk, Glyndebourne's carefully nurtured understudy, had the chance to show her mettle as Constanze before she takes on the role for the company's autumn tour. Gianni Rolandi was ill again for the last night and, despite some battling against a head cold herself, Manouk showed she has the pluck as well as the poise for the role. Her bright-based soprano worked easily at every accent and angle of Constanze's music and tuned in most sensitively to the woodwind soloists.

Hilary Finch

Philippe
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Sorry, wrong numbers

Waiting on One
Crawford Theatre

THEATRE

Waiting on One is a phrase drawn from the lingua franca of the bingo halls. Author Anne Downie uses it as a metaphor for any number of things that the women who play bingo are waiting on: affection, company, children, the big "win" in the broadest sense which is going to change their lives.

They never get it, of course, but then, as one of the characters remarked, "the expectation is more important than the winning".

I suspect there is a helluva play to be written about bingo; in her interlocation Downie refers to questions of gender, class and limited leisure options. This one, however, produced by the music theatre company Wildcat, is not it. There are some rare moments of insight such as when Jinty, a

marvellously coarse and vigorous Glasgow wife, tells her friend about a natural talent for pottery she discovered on holiday in Spain. When the friend urges her to carry on with it, all the social, domestic and political barriers which will inevitably prevent her are revealed, exactly the same forces which make her, however cheerfully stuck to the bingo.

But such moments are rare. To be fair, Downie is more concerned with providing a little light entertainment. But even on that level the show, uncertainly paced, is disappointing. The bingo game, for example, which we all get to play at the top of the show, is muddled by an opening song placed before it which sets the wrong tone.

Only Terry Neason as Jinty

brings the show into brief splutters of life. Admirer though I am of Wildcat's no-nonsense music hall style, and their musical and songwriting skills, they are looking a little jaded just at the moment.

This despite the fact that both Downie and Andi Ross, the director, are new to the company.

The matinee I attended was packed with groups of lively good humoured pensioners, bussed in by the local authority who had made a special grant to pay for a month of such matinees.

Wildcat insist that their work cannot be submitted to normal critical analysis because the audiences they set out to play to and entertain are not a typical middle-class theatre audience.

They have a point. So, just for the record, the lady sitting beside me didn't think much of it either.

Robert Dawson
Scott

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OAKHAM SCHOOL

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By Anna Healy Fenton

The co-ed lesson

Once it was just a small, one-room school for boys in Britain's smallest county. Now, Oakham has grown in size and rank to public school status with 936 pupils, half of them girls

Oakham School in Leicestershire, one of Britain's most progressive co-educational independent schools, has come a long way since its foundation in 1584 when the Archdeacon of Leicester, Robert Johnson, set up a one-room academy for 25 boys in Oakham, the principal settlement of the county of Rutland, England's smallest county before the 1974 boundary changes.

Johnson's descendants still number among the school's 20 trustees, and the school survives on a greatly expanded site. The original building has been preserved and restored as one of the school's two theatres.

Down the centuries the number of pupils has fluctuated but Oakham has remained relatively small. The pupil numbers were at a particularly low ebb towards the end of the 19th century but boomed between the two World Wars, as they did at most schools away from London.

In 1946, after the Second World War, with an established identity as the grammar school for Rutland, Oakham accepted Direct Grant aid from the Ministry of Education. In return, the school took in a percentage of county scholarships offered to primary school boys who passed an examination for a grammar school education.

In 1970, Direct Grant ended with the political upheavals which brought in Comprehensive School education, which the trustees deemed not suitable for Oakham, and the school returned to independent status.

A massive expansion programme then involved the building of nine new houses for day pupils and boarders, a new junior school, two upper sixth form houses, a sports complex, swimming pool and a design centre.

The expansion also paved the way for girls, 30 of whom made their first appearance in the sixth form. Their numbers increased until 1975 when the school became more or less co-educational.

Now, with 936 pupils in the junior and senior schools, there are only 40 more boys than girls.

In 1984, the 400th Centenary Appeal raised enough money for a new building, music school and computer centre.

The Barnborough Hall was converted into the Queen Elizabeth theatre, and was opened by the Queen in November, 1984. The

building programme was later extended to a new dining hall with seating for half the school, which opened last September.

To the visitor, the first impressions of the school are confusing, for there are no high fences or gates. The spread of the school is largely a result of its success.

The early 1970s expansion included the building of new houses and facilities, which now makes the school seem like a sprawling village within the town. Oakham maintains traditional standards found in most public schools, but insists these are achieved by methods more usually found within a family than a regiment.

There are 213 pupils aged between 10 and 12 in the junior school, 444 in the middle school aged between 13 and 16, and 279 in the sixth and seventh forms. There are 497 boys, 439 girls, 539 boarders and 397 day pupils.

They are all allocated a house, of which there are 13, with a housemaster or mistress and a tutor responsible for their pastoral care.

With 100 teaching staff the ratio is roughly one to 10, and each pupil is personally known well to at least two adults.

Morning lessons take place six days a week, with three afternoon classes. The other afternoons are taken up with three games sessions, activities and societies.

Academically, the school follows an open timetable, allowing pupils to study subjects of their choice where possible. Up to GCSE core subjects - maths, English, French, a science and a creative art must be taken.

Encouragingly, newcomers are given two weeks when they will not be punished for lateness due to getting lost in the school.

There is no corporal punishment. Instead, a system of detentions exists for omission of work, with warnings, gatings and suspensions administered in order of severity for other misdemeanours, such as smoking and drinking.

Limited drinking is allowed

within the schools sixth form bar, for those over 18, and trips to local public houses are permitted to that age group. All pupils seem to have personal bank accounts, rather than bank their money with the housemasters.

The pupils, disconcertingly referred to by most staff as "children", which seems odd when many of them are more than 6ft tall, were unfailingly courteous and showed no hint of the arrogance often associated with public schools.

They are encouraged to care for each other, helping juniors with problems and assuming responsibility for those in lower forms, whether they are prefects or not.

Judging by the groups of nervous parents lurking in the corridor outside the headmaster's study, it might seem that Graham Smallbone is the typical school tyrant set in the Victorian mould. One forgets that parents automatically behave like erring pupils when faced with any headmaster.

The reality of a tall, distinguished man with the manner of a kindly doctor and appearance of a City gent comes as a surprise.

A lifetime teaching in boys' schools makes Mr Smallbone refer to all pupils as children, or boys, even when they are girls, but the former director and preceptor of music at Eton, now aged 54, refuses to fit the single-sex public schoolmaster mould.

He travels from Headmaster's House by bicycle, a huge black machine, previously owned by a police constable.

A keen cellist, a director of music for 24 years and bound up in school-mastering, all led Mr Smallbone and his wife, Dorothea, to Oakham School.

"I'm fortunate because it is an unusual school," he says. "Over the past 20 years it has changed dramatically, co-education being the biggest change. We have an unusual mixture of boys and girls, day and boarding. The school has

become, in that time, a school to be reckoned with. "Since it has been co-educational it has been the full equal of the traditional opposition, Oundle and Uppingham. We are always pleased to defeat them at games, and we often do. That never happened before co-education.

Oakham's games were not the only area to improve with the advent of girls, the academic standard rose too, for both sexes.

This, he says, was due to the school's context being a very exciting one, with co-education the mainspring.

"Academically the results are high; I tell parents they can take the standard as read. It won't matter which of the great schools you go to, what makes the difference is what we do out of school hours, and that is where co-education has the most tremendous impact, with the music, drama and outdoor activities.

"What we offer is a total education, whether boarding or day, if pupils take part in all the evening activities."

More and more, the problem of integrating boarders and day pupils is being overcome, by mixing them in the houses. But, it is unreasonable for pupils to expect to know everyone in a school the size of Oakham, he believes.

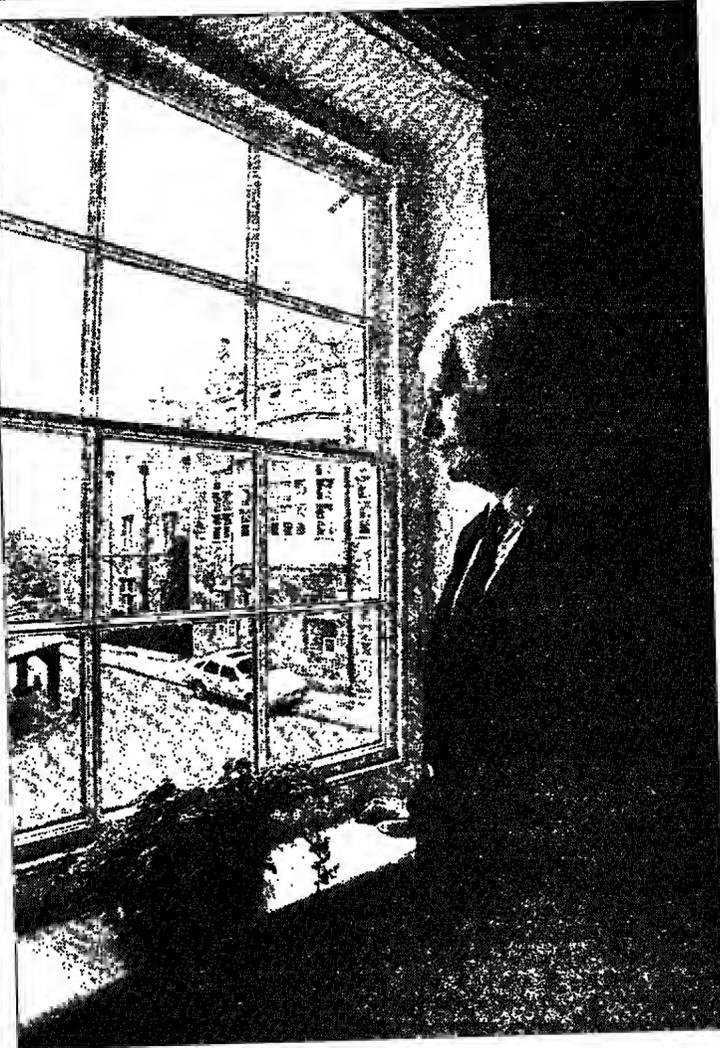
The philosophy of right and wrong is a traditional Christian one, and pupils usually attend chapel twice a week.

Standards of behaviour are straightforward. "I expect that the pupils will behave to each other as their parents would reasonably expect them to behave at home. I don't think, for personal relationships, they need clearer guidelines than that."

Moral education, as such, is covered by religious studies, where moral issues on matters such as sex and society can be discussed openly. There are no special lectures, but all these subjects are dealt with openly.

"Punishment as such is unimportant, we don't spend a lot of time thinking about that."

"On such matters as smoking and drinking there are straightforward sanctions. But the important issues like how to live with each other have to be firmly understood. There aren't a lot of rules unless you act in a matter contrary to common sense. Most people understand that very well."



“Moral education is covered by religious studies, where issues on matters such as sex and society can be discussed quite openly. Punishment as such is unimportant; we don't spend a lot of time thinking about that.”

Graham Smallbone, above, headmaster

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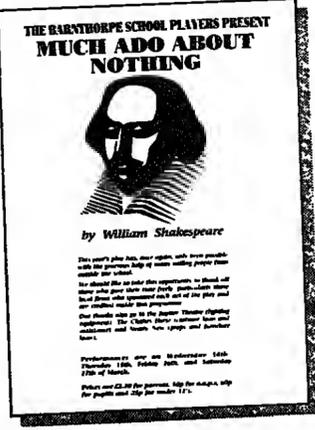
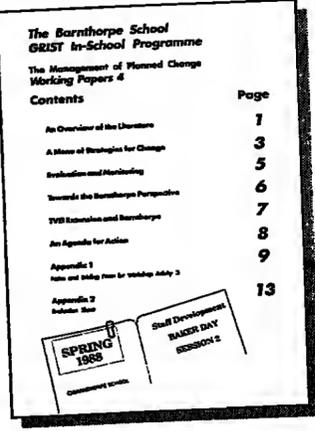
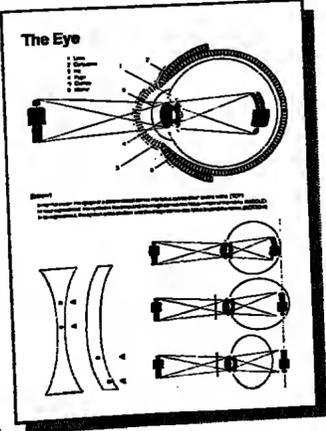
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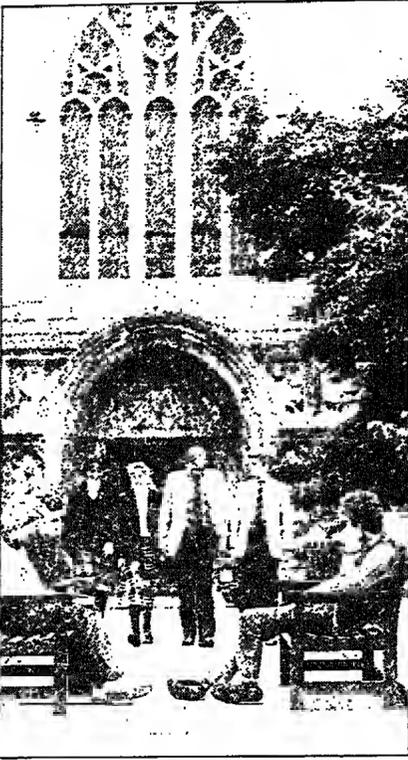
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Grooming for that university place starts in the fourth year



Oakham style: in their last year, seventh formers can wear casual clothes; for the others uniforms are a must. The students are treated, and expected to behave, as adults

About 94 per cent of Oakham's students go on to university or some other form of higher education. Around 20 candidates a year, of an average 35, are accepted for Oxford or Cambridge.

The high staff expectation of academic performance is reflected in the pupil's own aspirations. All the seventh formers questioned, had their sights set on university. Their last year at Oakham leads along a course somewhere between undergraduate life and traditional school routine. They can wear their own choice of clothes, except on formal occasions, and are generally treated, and expected to behave, as adults.

Though not free from all supervision, nowhere is the headmaster's standard of common sense expected to prevail more than among those about to fly the coop. Dr Mel Twigg, the careers master, says: "We start on careers in a big way in the fifth year, though I will have talked to many of the pupils unofficially in the fourth year."

"We go right through the fifth form with sets of formal interviews. Since most of them will go to university the careers approach is geared towards that end. We offer advice and help, and together with the careers library act as an information service."

Dr Twigg says he assesses the pupils academically, and in other ways, to see if their ambitions are realistic. He has more specialist information available than the tutors, though they handle a lot of this work. Usually, he says pupils are very realistic, though the same could not always be said of their parents.

As a member of the Independent Schools Career Service (Iscs), Oakham sees to it that each fifth former takes a range of aptitude tests and career questionnaires. A report of these is sent to parents, and the aim is to determine what subjects the pupil should concentrate on after GCSE.

An average pupil at Oakham is expected to get eight or more O-levels and the advent of the GCSE is not expected to change this.

Careers information day visits to local firms and factories are organized in conjunction with the business studies A-level course and the Science Association.

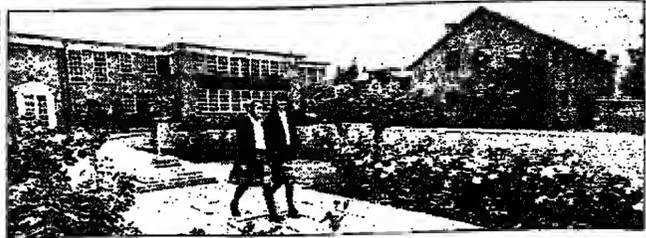
Guest speakers often visit the school to lecture on a particular profession.

In the sixth form, an industrial and higher education conference is held, in which Rutland Sixth Form College joins forces with Oakham for their mutual benefit.

Business studies is a popular A-level subject and serves as an introduction to accountancy, banking, marketing and other commercial careers.

The A-level course covers eight modules: marketing, production, industrial relations, statistics and operations research, cost and financial accounting, macroeconomics, individual and group psychology, and formal organization theory.

The examination also requires a project, which is of great interest to the business sector as it ensures the candidate spends at least two weeks in a work environment.



Set for the future: school expansion brought modern, airy buildings - and computer classes

Switched on to success

By the age of 13 or 14, Oakham pupils are as familiar with the workings and uses of computers as they are with Wordsworth's Daffodils. The purpose-built computer centre, opened in 1984, is equipped mostly on the basis of one student one computer.

The range includes, for the start of the next academic year, seven Apple IIs, 12 Apple Macintoshes, 10 Atari, 12 BBCs and 12 Nimbuses.

Pupils receive a thorough grounding in computers during the first three years, beginning at the age of 10, when computer work is compulsory. During the first few years students master the basic use of the systems, until the fourth and fifth year when about 30 opt to continue formal computer studies as part of a creative arts course. In the sixth form, computer studies is part of the general studies course for A-level.

By the time they reach the sixth, they know what they are doing and they use the general studies time for design or for special projects.

Peter Gray, the computers master, says: "Their general studies work ties in with other subjects such as biology and business studies projects, when they can use an Apple Macintosh computer for graphs and graphics."

"The philosophy behind the teaching of computers is that pupils learn their uses and applications. If someone wants to learn programming we'll do it, but not as a general rule. For most, programming is not necessary. They just want a program that will do the thing they want it to do."

Teaching the students to use several different types of machine means they are then confident when faced with tackling keyboard challenges in the future; for instance, if they came across a page-planner in a newspaper, they would have used one before and not be frightened by it.

"For those who are going to learn programming there is a little bit of the Pascal computer language in the fifth form, and the maths staff teach them some programming in the Logo computer language so they can get to grips with some of their mathematical problems; for example, if you make the machine do this, what are you actually doing in number terms? They use that as a tool."

The children take to the computers as second nature, especially if they have started very young. Surprisingly, even with co-education, masters said they found boys and girls sat in groups of their own sex

in all classes except computers.

Three BBC terminals are set up in the boarding houses, enabling students to use them at night for prep or revision, using special programs. Biology, maths and physics are among the wide range of programs available.

Macintosh computers are stationed around the school for staff use, with two laser-writer printers. They are handy for reports and other administrative tasks, including speech day literature.

Oakham has its own certificate in computer applications, which the head of department, Mrs Rita Gunn, says was based on the Milton Keynes certificate of the early 1980s.

This is what students work towards during their computer work, and it follows six modules: general computer training and systems skills, discs, files, word-processing, spreadsheets, databases and information systems.

They move on to local viewdata and remote viewdata, then electronics and some control work, using the computer to control.

The certificate, though not exactly a recognized qualification, is viewed favourably, and is, Mrs Gunn says, similar to the Cambridge Certificate in Information Technology.

How the school raises finance

Most of the money needed to finance an independent school the size of Oakham with nearly 950 pupils comes from its fees and limited endowments. The boarders will pay £7,000 a year, and day pupils £3,300 for the coming academic year.

The 20 trustees, drawn from all walks of life, are responsible for managing, planning, and taking financial decisions on the school's behalf. The main body meets four times a year, and the committees on finance and building hold meetings once a term.

academics, accountants, lawyers, an MP, and they keep in close touch with the school.

The School Visitor, a courtesy title, is John Jerwood, an old Oakhamian and considerable benefactor after whom the junior house is named. He is the figurehead of the trustees with a passion for education. His foundation also puts up much of the money to support the Oakham scholarships.

The trustees responsibilities cover the financial management of the school, appointing the headmaster and ultimately controlling the direction of the school.

Scholarship still pays off

Oakham School boasts a range of scholarships, which will be increased in value this year by £100,000 to £350,000 a year.

Last February, 126 children sat the scholarship exam, competing for awards focusing on outstanding academic, musical or artistic ability.

The money for scholarships and bursaries comes from school income, endowments and trust funds, such as the Elizabethan Trust, which are controlled by the trustees.

Recently, the School Visitor, John Jerwood, an old Oakhamian, has made large donations through the Jerwood Foundation to increase the number and value of awards.

As well as scholarships, bursaries are available for boys and girls deemed "by reason of personality or talent" to be likely to make an outstanding contribution to school life.

At present, about 100 pupils are benefiting from awards and the trustees are working towards increasing the number still further.

Michael Stevens, the registrar, says: "Some scholarships cover boarding fees and tuition; others partially. There are a number of bursaries, and the headmaster ensures that some go to children we would like to have in the school but who, for one reason or another, don't quite meet academic requirements."

Scholarships are awarded at the ages of 11-plus, 13-plus and for entry into the sixth form, based on examination and interview performance.

Music scholarships are offered to young, committed and able singers and instrumentalists. According to the school staff, excellent musical potential and flair

count as much as achievement at the younger ages of entry.

Art and Design awards are given to students set on a career in either art, design or technology, and generally made only to those entering the sixth form with a firm idea of their career ambitions.

Minor art exhibitions may be made to pupils entering the school aged 13.

Admirable as the scholarship programme may be, those enjoying Rutland Scholarships for entry at 11-plus must be indelibly labelled for their school lives, thanks to the blunt and condescending descriptions in the prospectus.

It says the award is "intended for children whose families have been resident in the county for at least two years, and who might otherwise be unable to afford an Oakham education."

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More of a home than a house

Home from home for the boarders are the houses, where they sleep, study and learn to rub along with their fellow Oakhamians. The same idea applies for the day pupils, though they return to their parents at night.

The junior school is Jerwoods, for ages 11 to 13, which has four houses, two for day girls, two for day boys.

The middle school has five boarding and two day houses, while the senior school for 17 to 19 year-olds has two houses, one for boys and girls, which both admit boarders and day pupils.

Rod Smith is housemaster of Chapmans, with 74 boys in his charge. He aims to have contact with each boy four times a day, however informal.

He is backed up by a resident tutor, a matron and four other tutors, each responsible for about eight boys. Any pupil can take his problems to either his tutor or housemaster, confident that they will go no further, though exceptions obviously arise.

"It's like a great big family," said Mr Smith. "It's all a question of getting to know people and mutual trust. With a group of sixth formers at the top of the house, they are really very mature young men and they give themselves heart and soul to the place and to helping the younger ones."

"The tutor system helps enormously. The tutor is very much a *confidante*. Parents work very closely with us as well, and I send a little report home on each child every three weeks; the progress they are making and the effort they are putting in. The immediacy of contact is very important otherwise kids lose sight of their parents."

Oakham explains its decision to live off the seniors into their own houses, rather than keep them with the middle school, as beneficial to their increased freedom and further encourages them to take responsibility.

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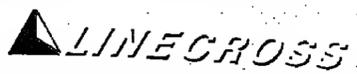
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OAKHAM SCHOOL/3

Game of life starts on playing field

In the best of English traditions, sport occupies an important position in the curriculum and in school life

Oakham places emphasis on sport for all levels and ages, regardless of skill. Each term concentrates on a particular sport for girls and boys, and each pupil does games about three times a week, or more if they are training for one of the school teams.

The list of sporting options includes rugby, soccer, athletics, hockey, cricket, badminton, basketball, netball, fives, fencing, golf, riding, sailing, shooting, squash and watersports.

Boys and girls are urged to play the sport they are good at. Oakham regularly plays other schools, such as nearby Uppingham and Oundle, though the girls find a shortage of competition at their standard in the area. Much of the time they seek out local adult teams for competition. For major sports, this is less of a problem and the girls often play state schools.

Since going co-educational, the standard of boys sports has risen dramatically at Oakham, for some unaccountable reason. Even the headmaster is baffled over the cause.

Oakham this year has fielded five boys for the Leicestershire schoolboys rugby XV, two for the England team, one for the English schoolboys badminton team and one for county cricket.

In the last 10 years, Oakham pupils have represented England in hockey, rugby and shooting, while the school has competed in national finals in squash, fencing, swimming, athletics, hockey, shooting,

At weekends, and during the afternoons other than when pupils are supposed to be doing games, they can occupy their time with societies and other activities.

Again the list is seemingly endless, and where a subject does not already exist a member of staff will supervise a new venture, given sufficient student enthusiasm.

Arts, crafts, music and other hobbies may be taken in a pupil's spare time, as well as science, exploration, dress-making and chess.

Field trips in biology and geography are a regular occurrence, together with trips to the theatre and places of historical interest. Distinguished speakers are frequently invited to address the various societies.

Sixth form societies range from debating to the International Club and the Oakham Association for science enthusiasts.

Boys and girls from form four and above can take part in the Combined Cadet Force one afternoon a week, which is seen as an exercise in initiative leadership and discipline.

Many gold medals for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme have been won by Oakham students over the years, and the Exploration Society has mounted trips to places as far afield as Iceland and Papua New Guinea.

An active social service group helps with handicapped and elderly people in the locality, assists at the Oakham Nursery School and makes itself useful in the community where needed.



Please Sir: enthusiasm reigns during a questions session at one of Roger Blackmore's junior science classes

Artistic talent goes on show

Housewives will be pleased to hear that home economics comes under art and design studies at Oakham. Within the design centre, it is just one of a host of subjects which all pupils study in their first two years, including drawing, painting, pottery, textiles and design in wood and metal.

Armed with their experiences they can then choose to take a creative arts GCSE, as most of them do. Creative arts is a compulsory subject until the fifth form, whether pupils take an examination or not. Examination courses to A-level include art, design, technology, home economics and the history of art.

Regular exhibitions are mounted and pupils spend their free time and weekends working on projects in the design centre. This year's major exhibition shows a staggering range of young talent of all ages.

Martin Minshall, the director of art and design, is proud of his pupils' efforts. "This girl has an interest in puppetry," he said, pointing to a group of exquisitely made and dressed puppets suspended on strings.

Explaining the process students follow in creating a project, as major works are called, he added: "She went down to Whitshire to see what puppet makers did and saw the different ways they were manufactured."

"She then designed hers, working with local people - we have excellent contacts

with local firms who are always willing to help."

Pointing to an A-level photographic display of brightly coloured children's clothes in bold shades and practical designs for six to eight-year-olds, Mr Minshall added: "The girl who made these has brothers and sisters of that age so she used them as models."

To help this pupil we phoned various companies for invitations for her to go to fashion and trade shows. She went all over the place with various companies and then produced her own range of clothes, with all the information available to

The emphasis is on initial research

the professionals. All the fabrics are hand-dyed and printed, and she made the buttons herself. Pupils keep a project diary so it is reported on at every stage.

"The emphasis with such projects is on initial research, then design, then manufacture, followed by evaluation by a professional. That way they get honest criticism."

For the first three years in creative arts pupils follow the full range of subjects, including theatre, music, computer control and technology, home economics as well as the full range of art and design activities.

In the fourth year they can decide to do

a GCSE or follow two one-year courses. There is no rigidity, and students can indulge their own particular creative leanings, which may or not lead them to A-level in the subject.

One feature of the art and design at Oakham is a resident artist, the current one being a jeweller. In the past there have been painters, sculptors and other jewellers.

Moving to the junior and middle school section of the exhibition, the standard of work is just as impressive.

The same principles of research, design and manufacture apply, with the help of local industry, and the evaluation of the end product.

One 15-year-old girl designed a leverage unit for people with arthritis whose illness made opening doors difficult. "It was a simple problem, sorted out with help from the local hospital," says Mr Minshall.

Another ingenious creation involved building bricks which fitted into a wooden frame. If slotted in the right order, back-to-back in the frame, the bricks on one side spelled a French word such as *vache*, with the bricks on the other side forming the picture of a cow. Five or more descriptive words could be fitted into the frame.

"It's all about ideas and different processes," mused Mr Minshall. "Just a simple way for a child to learn a few French words."

Halls alive to sound of music

With a headmaster who is an ardent musician it is hardly surprising that Oakham has a reputation for music studies.

With two theatres averaging 45 productions a year, no pupil could complain of a shortage dramatic and musical opportunity.

Almost any musical instrument can be learnt, with the added incentive of free lessons for the first term on a new instrument. Those who have attained Grade 5 Merit or above get free tuition.

Enthusiasm for music throughout the school is high and every member of Jerwood's, the junior school, will proudly tell of his or her own musical prowess.

Music is taught in class for the first two years and is available as an option later. Many pupils choose to take a music subject at GCSE and A-level, as well as aiming for entry to a music college or university entry.

Singers can join the chapel choir which gives added voice to services as well as concerts. For Jerwoods there is a junior choir and choral society.

With two school orchestras, two chamber orchestras, bass ensembles, string quartets and swing bands, there are endless chances to perform in public.

The school's senior drama company, the Jerwood Players, puts on two plays a year and has performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The two theatres at Oakham are the Shakespeare Centre, which was the original classroom when the school was founded in 1584, and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, formerly the Baraclough Hall, which was opened by the Queen during her visit to the school in 1984. It is not named after the Queen, but apparently refers to the founding of the school in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1953, when the then Baraclough Hall was converted from a canal wharf and stable, the school staged its first theatre production, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

In May this year, the school commemorated the 35th anniversary of this performance by staging the play again, with the original cast invited as guests.

Among those who watched the re-run, were the former MacBeth lead actor, now Dr Peter North, principal of Jesus College, Oxford; Major General A. J. G. Pollard, deputy colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment who played Ross; and John Cope, the Employment Minister, who played... Lady Macbeth.

AFTER GCSE'S, WHAT NEXT?

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Student body's minor moans

Talking to Oakham's pupils shows that the staff claims of happiness and harmony throughout the entire school are well founded.

No students, with or without masters present, had a major complaint about their school. Most genuinely enjoyed it and appreciated the facilities and opportunities.

Apart from minor moans from very junior members that red polo neck jumpers might be imposed next winter if they persisted in wearing tee-shirts under their predominantly navy blue uniforms, the only major concern was the difference between day pupils and boarders.

Although integrated houses are on the increase, day pupils felt a huge gap between themselves and the boarders.

"We have lunch at a dif-

ferent time to them and we don't really have anywhere to go in our spare time. We're not supposed to go into the boarding houses," said one Jerwoods member.

Higher up the school, the concerns were focused on personal matters. One sixth former thought the headmaster's theory that common-sense prevails in personal relationships between boys and girls all very well.

"In practice though, we don't really know what we are actually allowed to do. The barriers are unclear. There is the 'six-inch rule' which means you must be that far apart at all times, but often you only find out about a rule when you break it," said one newcomer to the sixth form.

She also felt at a disadvantage being housed as a

new girl with seventh formers. Food raised few grumbles at any level.

The new sixth form girls who had left girls' schools elsewhere to come to Oakham for A-levels were generally pleased with the move. Most of their parents had heard about Oakham through personal recommendation although some already had siblings here.

Cheerfully, all pupils questioned, emphatically said that if another was known to be drinking alcohol, or taking drugs, they would tell their housemaster or tutor. They did not regard it as "sneaking" but in the boy or girl's best interests that the staff be told.

ARCHITECTS

New Boarding House for Oakham School

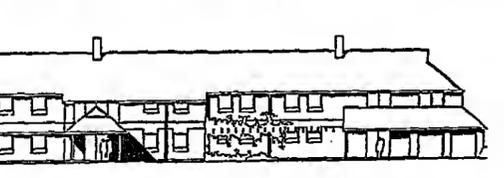


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ISCO Independent Schools Careers Organisation
Director: G.W. Smith M.A.
Head Office: 126-128 Pleasant Way Canterbury, Surrey GU15 3SF Telephone: 0776 21181/9
All 5th form boys and girls at Oakham are enrolled in the ISCO CAREERS GUIDANCE SCHEME.
Independent schools may obtain details of the Scheme from the Director whom parents should contact for information regarding ISCO publications.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Cerefax AM. 6.40 Edgar Kennedy in Morning Judge (b/w). 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Breakfast Time with Jeremy Paxman and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news...

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Geology - Deserts 7.20 Power to the People. Ends at 7.45. 9.00 Cerefax. 12.30 Open University: An Introduction to Information Technology 12.55 Fundamentals of Computing...

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with The Morning Programme introduced by Richard Keys; 7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anna Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes a review of the Duchess of York's maternity style...

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 Just 4 Fun (r). 12.30 Business Daily. 1.00 Sesame Street. The guest is conductor Yo-Yo Ma. 2.00 The Parliament Programme. 2.30 Film: The Great McGinty (1940, b/w) starring Brian Conley as a down-and-out who is taken under the wing of a corrupt politician and becomes a state governor...

Monarchs and myths

TELEVISION CHOICE

The premise behind Late Great Britons (BBC1, 11.05pm) is that the historical characters under reassessment by modern historians can, without hesitation, be called great. With tonight's subject, Queen Victoria, doubts are immediately raised. Unlike other figures to be tackled in this series, like Churchill or Cromwell, she did not wield any substantial power and/or decisively alter the course of history...



Symbol of stability: An informal 1885 photograph of Queen Victoria with two of her many grandchildren (BBC1, 11.05pm)

the reign went on, the monarchy became steadily more popular and her death, in Cannadine's phrase, set off "an orgy of mourning". In defiance of television convention, which says that you cannot risk boring people with talk, Cannadine speaks straight to camera, with the minimum of visual aids. But his crisp delivery and trenchant analysis makes this a gripping half hour. My only complaint is that he was out allowed longer.

Peter Hayward

Blandings to the life

RADIO CHOICE

The more I hear of Richard Osborne's radio versions of the Blandings saga - the latest, Heavy Weather begins on Radio 4, 6.30pm - the less didactic I get about insisting that Wodehouse ought to be left where it began, on the printed page. But if Osborne can't pull it off, nobody can. He is the only Wodehouse exegete that matters. Complementarily, Richard Vernon is the only Lord Emsworth who can take seriously, and if anyone has ever come up with a better Galahad Threehwood than Iao Carmichael, I should very much like to know who he is. Right ho, then, all the auguries for this latest Blandings serialization look good. And, by Jove, it really is a corker, what with Threehwood suggesting that Emsworth's pig-man Pribright should lurk about Blandings disguised as a tree or a pile of



The best Threehwood: Iain Carmichael (R4, 6.30pm)

potato peelings so that he can prevent something unspeakable happening to the Earl's prize porker, Empress of Blandings, the useless Ronnie Fish suffering bouts of "Etou and Cambridge silence" when anyone casts a shadow over his love affair with the ehorus-

Peter Davalle

- BBC1 WALEX: 6.30-7.00 News Today 6.30-7.00 News 11.40 News and weather 6.00-6.30 News 7.00-7.30 News 7.30-8.00 News 8.00-8.30 News 8.30-9.00 News 9.00-9.30 News 9.30-10.00 News 10.00-10.30 News 10.30-11.00 News 11.00-11.30 News 11.30-12.00 News 12.00-12.30 News 12.30-1.00 News 1.00-1.30 News 1.30-2.00 News 2.00-2.30 News 2.30-3.00 News 3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00 News 4.00-4.30 News 4.30-5.00 News 5.00-5.30 News 5.30-6.00 News 6.00-6.30 News 6.30-7.00 News 7.00-7.30 News 7.30-8.00 News 8.00-8.30 News 8.30-9.00 News 9.00-9.30 News 9.30-10.00 News 10.00-10.30 News 10.30-11.00 News 11.00-11.30 News 11.30-12.00 News 12.00-12.30 News 12.30-1.00 News 1.00-1.30 News 1.30-2.00 News 2.00-2.30 News 2.30-3.00 News 3.00-3.30 News 3.30-4.00 News 4.00-4.30 News 4.30-5.00 News 5.00-5.30 News 5.30-6.00 News 6.00-6.30 News 6.30-7.00 News 7.00-7.30 News 7.30-8.00 News 8.00-8.30 News 8.30-9.00 News 9.00-9.30 News 9.30-10.00 News 10.00-10.30 News 10.30-11.00 News 11.00-11.30 News 11.30-12.00 News 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Schools asked to tackle crime

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The Government yesterday called on parents and teachers to help tackle the roots of crime as Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, spoke of a new generation of young criminals who mug, rob and rape without the slightest trace of remorse for their victims.

Mr Hurd expressed his dismay that while violent crime represented only one in 20 of all offences, it was the most rapidly increasing form of crime.

Policemen and prison officers agreed, he said, that the distinctive feature of to-day's

Heathrow caught up in Jackson fever



Pop star Michael Jackson, dressed to thrill and surrounded by minders, strides smiling into Britain and an ecstatic welcome from his youthful admirers.

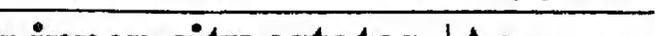
Continued from page 1
Baptist, it seemed. Still more men were running backwards in all directions.

Then another figure sprang out of the bus, sprinted over the tarmac, and leapt up an embankment ladder which happened to be parked just below us. He was in a kind of black uniform with scarlet and silver flashings. I could not see the cleft in his chin, because someone had his elbow in my eye. Someone else threw himself bodily over our shoulders, and would have vanished over the parapet if we had not grabbed him.

Jackson raised both arms towards the sky, from which he had come. I had the impression that flashes of radiant light burst from him. Then in an instant he was down the steps, into the yellow bus and away, while waves of

teenagers rushed to and fro trying to catch a last glimpse. The clouds closed in, and the drizzle prepared to resume. The luckiest of us had got about 15 seconds' view of the star. Many had not seen him at all, after waiting three or four hours.

I looked around for someone who might be able to tell me whether Jackson had gone through the "nothing to declare" channel. Two spindly 15-year-olds from Dagenham, one white, one black, came lurching away from the railings, laughing and hugging each other. "Was it worth it?" "Yes!" they cried. There were real tears on their cheeks. And on mine too, for that matter.



Defying danger, Jackson's fans cram the roof of Terminal 2 for a mere glimpse of their idol.

Exit the matter of massive concern

Conversations about roads and traffic animate the country to a far greater extent than conversations about the weather. Though this has not yet been acknowledged by eminent sociologists, it is reflected well in the House of Commons.

Weather gets a very poor deal in the Chamber. Long ago, Mr Denis Howell gave rainstorms a bad name and they are now never mentioned. Questions are not raised concerning the possible wrongdoing of the rain; there have been no recent announcements of Government plans to privatize the sun. Ministers are rarely called to account for the latest drizzle; few Labour MPs complain that clouds are all a part of an orchestrated cover-up. But, on the other hand, the combined topics of cars and routes and roads can really set the tongues wagging.

The Minister for Roads and Traffic, whose job it is to preside over all this saloon bar banter, is Mr Peter Bottomley, who has the slightly absent-minded air and cheery disposition of a middle-ranking lollipop man on a little-used crossing. How grim for him must be the prospect each fortnight of finding this crossing invaded by hordes of petulant grown-ups, all anxious to buttonhole him with their latest theories on traffic control.

Roads and Traffic is one of those areas of political life where everyone nurtures theories and parades advice, flapping their arms this way and that. They not only have bees in their bonnets, but bugs in their batteries and bantams in their boots. Dr Michael Clark (Cons, Rochford) is one such flapper. Squawking about wheel clamps comes as second nature to him. Yesterday, he announced that wheel clamping was now going too far, and that it seemed to him unfair to persecute those parking illicitly in residents' spaces or by over-run meters. "Hurry along there, sir, hurry along, thank you kindly," is Mr Bottomley's method for dealing with such determined naggers. Also, once he has successfully shoved the first nagger to the other side of the road, another one is always bound

Advertisement for 'Melland' home care services, featuring a large image of a person and text describing the services offered.

Spectrum

violence was that offenders, particularly young offenders, often had no feelings at all towards their victims. There are teenagers in this country - a minority but still too many - who display a moral brutishness which seems to make them incapable of any kind of imaginative sympathy with their victims.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? By Philip Howard

SCAPEAPE

a. A similar scapegoat
b. A Pacific fruit
c. A transverse monastery window

CHALYBEOUS

a. Steely
b. The Korean tea ceremony
c. Abnormal salivating

EPICLIMACTICALLY

a. On the reverse slope
b. After the climax
c. Pertaining to ladders

DECANI

a. Government by deceivings
b. An Etruscan tribe
c. Part of the choir

£125m facelift for inner-city estates

By Christopher Warman and Nicholas Wood

Some of the most neglected and crime-ridden council house estates in England were yesterday targeted by the Government for urgent action by the new Housing Action Trusts being set up under its housing legislation.

Under the three-year scheme, costing £125 million, the Government will buy the 18 estates at "market" value and renovate the 25,000 dilapidated properties before selling them off to new owners.

Six local authorities - Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets in Greater London, and Leeds in Yorkshire, Sandwell in the West Midlands and Sunderland in Tyne and Wear - have been designated as areas containing severely run-down council housing.

The names of the estates have been announced to give notice of action next spring after the Housing Bill is implemented. There was immediate criticism from the Association of London Authorities, which said that no action should be taken unless most of the tenants in the estates concerned approved it.

Anger over 'one yard' frigate order

Continued from page 1

ment was given a muted reception by MPs who questioned why only three rather than four Type 23 frigates had been ordered and demanded that the Government have a clear programme of continuous ordering.

Mr Allan Rogers, an opposition spokesman on defence, said the order would enhance the surface fleet which had been reduced in capability and effectiveness because of the Government's "gross inability" to manage properly the

defence economy over the past few years. But he said an order for one of the frigates could have been placed with Swan Hunter.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,719

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

ACROSS
1 Where to see 13 being unfair (5,3,4).
8 Glasty retreats, abandoning the last of the regiment (7).
9 One of the grass-roots I'd care out (7).
11 Test papers read out from the gallery (7).
12 He'll find you some liquid more like nectar (7).
13 By the sound of it, adjusts 23 (5).
14 Armament badly sited aboard vessel (9).
16 I'd be more original, having the right to add fanciful details (9).
19 In line - an ash (5).
21 In despair, moving more than one square (7).
23 A couple of pages are left in costume (7).
24 Support us in a spot (7).
25 In love with alluring, not heartless girl (7).
26 Wets O.K. really - it's unusual to see cowardice (6,6).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? By Philip Howard

SCAPEAPE

a. A similar scapegoat
b. A Pacific fruit
c. A transverse monastery window

WEATHER

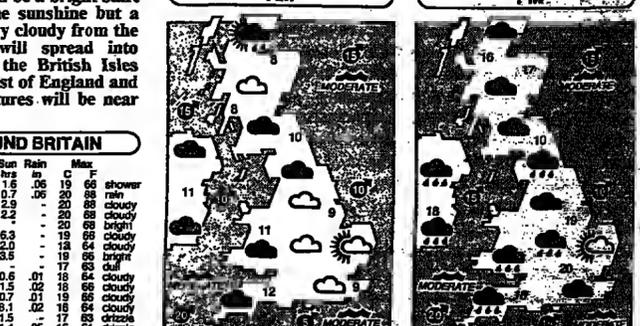
There will be a bright start with some sunshine but a few showers too. It will become increasingly cloudy from the south-west during the morning. Rain will spread into Northern Ireland and the south-west of the British Isles during the afternoon, and perhaps to the rest of England and southern Scotland by midnight. Temperatures will be near average for mid-July. Outlook: unsettled.

Table with columns for 'ABROAD' and 'AROUND BRITAIN', listing weather forecasts for various locations including Alaccio, Alexandria, Athens, etc.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations: London Bridge, Aberdeen, Armitage, Belfast, etc.

AM PM



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Marston, Kent, 22C (72F). Lowest: Gairloch, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Marston, Kent, 13C (55F). Lowest night temp: Gairloch, 5C (41F).

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 9.44 pm to 4.29 am. Bristol 9.44 pm to 4.29 am. Edinburgh 10.22 pm to 4.15 am. Manchester 10.18 pm to 4.27 am. Newcastle 9.55 pm to 4.37 am.

LONDON

Sunday: Temperature: 16-21C (61-70F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Sun: 9.44-4.29 pm. Rain: 0.5mm.

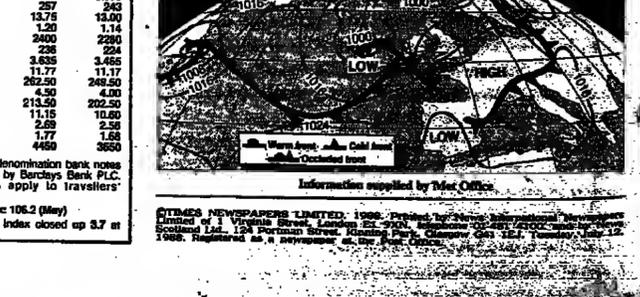
YESTERDAY

London: 16-21C (61-70F). Wind: 10-15 mph. Sun: 9.44-4.29 pm. Rain: 0.5mm.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times: 1.40pm, 2pm, 3pm, 6.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.15pm and 10.30pm.

NOON TODAY



March
nattered
concern

MARKETS	
FT 30 Share	1510.5 (+3.7)
FT-SE 100	1876.8 (-0.4)
USM (Datastream)	184.71 (+0.99)
THE POUND	
US dollar	1.6885 (-0.0125)
W German mark	3.1170 (-0.0018)
Trade-weighted	75.0 (-0.2)

TUESDAY JULY 12 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Midland lifts home loan rate

Midland Bank is to increase its mortgage rate from 9.75 per cent to 11.3 per cent from today.

The Midland is the second of the clearing banks, after Barclays, to increase its mortgage rate after last week's rise in base rates to 10 per cent.

The building societies are delaying the announcement of their new, higher, rates which will be set later this month for implementation on August 1.

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, said last week that it expected to set a rate between 10.75 per cent and 11.25 per cent. So the Midland rate is off the top end of the Halifax scale.

Everard rise

Ellis & Everard, the industrial chemicals group, beat market expectations with a 24 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £8.2 million for the year to April 30.

R-R orders

Rolls-Royce 524G aircraft engines of the RB211 family are to go into two more Boeing 747-400 aircraft ordered by Qantas, the Australian airline in a deal worth £75 million.

Sound offer

Telephone Rentals has received sufficient acceptance to give it 96.5 per cent of Sound Systems, and has declared its offer unconditional. The offer will stay open until at least July 25.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2114.89 (+8.54)
Yokohama	Nikkei Average	2795.99 (+88.91)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2759.59 (+6.89)
Amsterdam	Amst. Exchange	267.9 (-1.4)
Sydney	Sydney 100	1628.4 (+15.8)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1499.0 (-8.3)
Brussels	Brussels	498.6 (-18.7)
Paris	Paris CAC	3663.2 (-2.8)
Zurich	Zurich S&K	476.1 (+1.1)
London	FT-100	1876.8 (-0.4)
FT-30	FT-30	1510.5 (+3.7)
FT-100	FT-100	1876.8 (-0.4)
FT-30	FT-30	1510.5 (+3.7)
FT-100	FT-100	1876.8 (-0.4)
FT-30	FT-30	1510.5 (+3.7)
FT-100	FT-100	1876.8 (-0.4)
FT-30	FT-30	1510.5 (+3.7)
FT-100	FT-100	1876.8 (-0.4)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Wolstenholme Plink	300p (+155p)
Peachey Property	624p (+80p)
Davies & Newman	845p (+100p)
Cherryfield	815p (+100p)
Newport Sockley	530p (+210p)
Johnston Group	420p (+100p)
Schroders	900p (+100p)
Eya Whitbread	740p (+100p)
Edif	380p (+100p)
Haynes Publishing	487p (+110p)
Reasers	572p (+110p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	10% 1/2p
3-month eligible bills	9% 7/8p
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds	7% 1/4p
3-month Treasury Bills	6.52-6.51%
30-year bonds	100%-100 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.6885
£/DM	DM3.1170
£/Sfr	Sfr1.5380
£/Yen	¥132.95
£/Indec	Indec 98.1
£/ECU	ECU 20.664771
SDR	SDR 20.768970

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$438.85 pm \$436.80
close	\$438.00-435.50 (\$257.50-258.00)
Comex	\$435.90-436.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.)	pm \$14.55 (\$15.12)
Densities	latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141
Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: Wolstenholme Plink (01329) soared 155p after rejecting a bid, while Peachey Property (02680) leapt 80p and BSR International (01117) gained 14p after approaches. Reuters 8 shares (02706) were up 10p on the former dollar, and Appleyard (02540) gained 8p on hopes for car sales.
Recent additions include: Rockfort Group (03382), Erastin Group (03383) and Heritage (03381).
Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc VAT.

Managers pay £620m for Reed offshoot

By John Bell, City Editor

Reed International, the publishing house, has completed the sale of its manufacturing operations in one of Britain's largest management buy-outs, worth £620 million.

The sale marks the final stage of Reed's corporate transformation from a rambling conglomerate with interests in paint, cardboard boxes, newspapers and do-it-yourself, into a streamlined entity focused on publishing.

The businesses being sold - Reed Manufacturing Group - are mainly in paper, packaging and office supplies.

They include Reed Paper & Board, one of Britain's largest in its field; Reed Packaging, which operates from 28 factories in Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium, as well as Spicers, a leading wholesaler of stationery and office products.

The sale creates an independent group with a turnover of £708 million last year and trading profits of £62.3 million. The buyout company, Reedpack Ltd, is being groomed for a flotation in about three years.

Mr Peter Williams, who heads the management buy-out, said: "It is our intention to develop and expand these businesses further. There are significant opportunities available to Reedpack and we

look forward to fulfilling the potential of the new company under its own independent management."

The Reedpack management has subscribed for 10 per cent of the new equity. Almost 250 managers have taken shares in the new venture. "I am not sure if I am borrowed up to my eyeballs or my navel, but you can say that we are very well motivated," said Mr Williams.

"All of the companies are good companies with solid track records. The buyout had been structured so that finance is in place for an estimated £300 million of capital spending over the next five years," added Mr Williams.

"Reed International has been going through a period of soul-searching over the past few years. We will be able to concentrate on the development plans which we put in place while we were part of the Reed group. The companies have been well run, there are no turnaround situations, and demand is good," he said.

Reedpack Ltd is backed by a group of institutions, including British Coal Pension Funds, British Rail Pension Fund, 3i, Globe Investment Trust, Citicorp and Prudential Assurance. The buyout group is being led by CIN Venture Managers. Chemical Bank is arranging the debt facilities with National Westminster

Bank and Industrial Bank of Japan as lead underwriters.

There was a cautious reaction in the stock market to the sale, which will lead to some dilution of earnings this year. Analysts have supported Reed's strategy but are also concerned that the group may face further dilution investing the buyout cash in highly rated publishing ventures.

Mr Peter Davis, Reed International's chief executive, said the group would strive for a balance between long-term strategy and current year earnings.

Once the decision had been made to concentrate on publishing, the group was concerned to find a solution for the manufacturing companies which ensured a good price for shareholders but kept the businesses together in a way that allowed their continued development.

"After a review of other offers, the board and Warburg (its merchant banking adviser) felt that this was the best offer to pursue," he added.

The purchase price of £610 million is to be paid in cash and there are further proceeds of £8 million.

Reed International will receive shares convertible into 10 per cent of Reedpack when it is floated and is also subscribing for £60 million of preference shares in Reedpack.

Sophie Mirman has the world at her feet



Sophie's choice set of results: Sophie Mirman at the headquarters of Sock Shop yesterday (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Record £2.2m for Sock Shop

By Carol Ferguson

Sock Shop, the fast-growing hosiery retailer, revealed another record half year to March 31 with pre-tax profits of £2.2 million, a 76 per cent increase on the comparable period last year.

The group attributed its growth to higher turnover in existing shops, as well as to new outlets and the successful introduction of own label hosiery under the "City Slick" and other "City" brands.

Miss Sophie Mirman, the group chairman and joint managing director, said the

changes in the basic ranges were the most significant. Sock Shop has undertaken in years. "Last autumn, 20 per cent of our sales were own label, and 80 per cent were branded. By this autumn, we expect these proportions to reverse, and to have 80 per cent of our sales own label."

"Our selling prices are lower. Our own label City Slick sells at £1.75, compared with £2.25 for the same item sold under its brand name." During the half year, Sock

Shop began trading overseas, opening one shop in Dublin and three in New York. Since the year-end, it has opened a further three in New York. "We believe New York can take 25 Sock Shops," Mr Richard Ross, the joint managing director, said. There are 35 outlets in London.

"Our New York operation is run by a US team, and we are encouraged by what we are doing there," Mr Ross said. "Only two of our shops have had a Christmas season, and it is different merchandise and different tastes. But we hope to break even in the 14

months to February 1989. But we have made a £150,000 provision in the accounts against New York out of prudence, although there is no commercial logic to it at all."

The number of Sock Shops open in Britain at the end of March was 65, since when, a further eight have opened. The company said that it had changed its year end from September to February. A dividend of 1p net was declared, and the directors intend to pay a second interim after the next announcement, as well as a final dividend. The shares rose 3p to 285p.

Protest at trial delay by 'ruined' Saunders

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former head of the Guinness drinks empire, yesterday described himself as a ruined man "without work, without money, without status and without influence".

Mr Saunders made his claim in a statement, after he was again hauled at Bow Street Magistrates Court, with the six other defendants in the Guinness affair.

He complained about the "unreasonable delay in bringing this matter to trial".

"It is now 14 months since I was arrested and charged in May 1987, and 18 months since my arbitrary dismissal by my former employers. During this time, my personal and professional life has been ruined; my wife's health broken; and my family have been living under the most enormous continuous stress. This is inhuman."

Mr Saunders described the co-defendants in the Guinness case as "men of the city and substance". Compared with

them, he was "in a unique position of disadvantage - without work, without money, without status and without influence".

Mr Saunders said his application for legal aid had been rejected and he was unable to cope with the 25 volumes of papers served on him.

"I am a layman, and I don't consider myself in any way competent to understand the legal significance of what is involved."

Mr Saunders is pressing for

the committal proceedings in the Guinness case to begin immediately. However, all the Guinness defendants were further remanded yesterday.

Only Mr Saunders and Lord Patrick Spens appeared in court. The magistrate had agreed that the other defendants - Sir Jack Lyons, Mr Roger Seelig, Mr Gerald Ronson, Mr David Mayhew and Mr Anthony Parnes - need not appear.

All defendants were remanded on bail until September 26.



Mr Saunders, left, and Lord Spens before the hearing

CBI chief's plea on directors

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, called yesterday for a clearer definition of the role of non-executive directors under the Financial Services Act.

He resigned last week from his £10,000 a year non-executive directorship of Midland Bank in protest at the new regulations.

He said his decision was purely personal, resulting from "irritation" with several aspects of the new rules, and was not the start of a CBI campaign against the Act. His

main objection was to a rule by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation requiring him to declare personal share dealings to Midland within 12 hours.

As a non-executive director of the Prudential, he did not have the same obligations. The Prudential is a holding company, and under the rules of the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, holding company directors are not obliged to declare share dealings if he had been a director of one of the investment subsidiaries the

Landro rules would oblige him to notify the company of personal share dealings.

With such contradictions, he said, the rules had not been carefully thought through. "You have to justify all restriction. The problem with a self-regulatory system is that you can be too loose. If it was a fully legal framework, you would have to think through the restriction more carefully." Sir Trevor said that the new rules had fundamentally changed the relationship of non-executive directors with companies.

Congress seeks reforms on Wall Street

Jail 'best deterrent' for US insiders

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr David Ruder, the chairman of the US Securities & Exchange Commission, said yesterday that tough prison sentences are the most important deterrent to the insider trading scandals which have rocked Wall Street over the past two years.

In testimony to Congress, Mr Ruder gave strong backing to the current five-year prison term for criminal flouting of the securities laws but he stopped short of endorsing a proposed large increase in the maximum fine to \$1 million (£590,000) for such criminal actions. Mr Ruder said that he considered that the current two-tier system, of a \$250,000 current fine for the commission of a felony and a larger \$500,000 fine for organized

insider trading activities was adequate. The SEC chairman was testifying as Congress rushed through an exhaustive legislative schedule in order to complete deliberations on priority issues before the summer recess.

Proposed legislation to both toughen the insider trading laws and to reform Wall Street in the aftermath of the stock market crash is not likely to be passed by this Congress. Officials said it would be delayed until after the presidential elections when a new Congress is sworn in.

who had predicted that there would be a recession after the crash.

But volume on Wall Street and on international markets is down considerably from pre-crash levels as small investors remain on the sidelines. This has prompted the big US exchanges to propose voluntary reform programmes to try and restore investor confidence.

The New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange last week unveiled the first inter-market circuit breakers designed to halt excessive volatility by observing the relationship between stocks and stock futures.

Although officials on Wall Street criticized the proposed measures as disruptive and ineffective, they drew praise from the industry although the SEC has not yet said if it will endorse them.

'Opportunities missed in Japan'

British firms "have not been very prompt" in challenging the Japanese market, a Tokyo minister said yesterday.

"British business has not been sufficiently aware of the opportunities in the Japanese market brought by the rise of the yen and the high Japanese growth rate," said Mr Hajime Tamura, Japan's Minister of International Trade and In-

dustrial. "Responses of UK companies had not been very prompt," he explained, before the Opportunity Japan programme set up between MITI and the Department of Trade and Industry, run by Lord Young.

But he now believes that British goods are fully competitive. "The UK now is very different from the UK I used

to know and it is wonderful to see the present state of the UK economy," he added.

Mr Tamura said he thought Lord Young's target of doubling British exports to Japan in three years was "very ambitious." But after a 31 per cent rise in the first five months of 1988, "I believe achievement of the target is not impossible."

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EARNINGS PER SHARE: UP 176%

DIVIDEND PER SHARE: UP 176%

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- Profit before tax up 60%
- Earnings per ordinary share up 38%
- Dividend per ordinary share up 28%

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Albert Fisher Group in \$20m purchases

Albert Fisher Group, the fast-growing food company, has bought two more companies in the US, a New Jersey-based distributor of disposable paper and plastic products to supermarkets, department stores and the food service industry, and a Californian dealer in fresh fruit and vegetables. It is paying \$18 million (£10.6 million) for Grossman Paper Company, which has its headquarters in New Jersey and two smaller distributors in California and Texas. The consideration will be \$16 million in cash and the balance in new shares.

Grossman made pre-tax profits of \$2.13 million in the 10 months to end-March on a turnover of \$71.2 million. Albert Fisher is also buying G&G Produce Company of Los Angeles for an initial \$2.05 million, with up to another \$5.95 million depending on future profits.

Anglia £14m Confirmation homes deal from Norfolk

Anglia Secure Homes, the specialist housebuilder, has agreed a £14 million joint venture with Balfour Beatty Homes, a subsidiary of BICC, to build a retirement homes complex at Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset. The 3.5 acre development, scheduled for completion in 1990, will include two- and three-bedroom flats, a leisure complex, offices and a car park.

Norfolk House Group has confirmed that it is buying 12 petrol stations in the East Midlands from MPK Garages, a subsidiary of a maximum total consideration of £3.5 million cash. The acquisition will give Norfolk House, which now operates a total of 40 service stations, a basis for further expansion into the West Midlands and the North.

£10.4m tag on Ealing

Ealing Electro-Optics, the USM-quoted optical equipment manufacturer, is likely to receive a full bid at £1 a share, valuing the group at £10.48 million, within the next couple of days, the board has said. The shares were suspended at 73p almost two weeks ago on news of a possible approach but were chased up to 88p yesterday as trading resumed.

Ealing saw pre-tax profits collapse from £1.27 million to £68,000 in the year to end-December, but an optimistic chairman's statement has indicated improvement in 1988.

£1.55m buy for Hughes Vibroplant acquisition

Hughes Food Group is buying Wim Milne Limited and its three trading subsidiaries operating in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast, for £1.55 million. The acquisition is to be financed by a mixture of shares and cash. Wim Milne reported a £2.4 million turnover and a £196,000 pre-tax profit in the year ended February.

Vibroplant, the plant hire business, is to pay \$2.85 million (£1.7 million) for High-Lift Partners, a Texan company, which trades as Empire High-Lift. The company is also arranging a placing of 240,000 new shares at 70p each, representing more than 3 per cent of the share capital, to raise about £1.7 million.

Pearson raises stake

Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times* and Penguin, the book publisher, has increased its stake in Pickwick Group, the record and cassette group, to 21.2 per cent. The purchase of 1.53 million shares is in line with the agreement made when Pearson took its initial 14.3 per cent holding, which gave it first refusal over another 6.9 per cent at 260p a share.

The two companies have close trading links, and Pearson has said it does not plan a full offer. However, it reserved the right to do so with the approval of the Pickwick board or to come in as a "white knight" in the event of a third party offer.

Asda has ambitions to be the best in its field and, with margins already the highest in the sector, many say this has already been achieved.

Asda's superior profitability has as much to do with the mix of business — a quarter of its stores operation is in higher margin non-food business — as with systems.

Costs have been kept under control by allowing suppliers to bear the distribution costs (although this is now to change). Moreover, the average size of Asda's stores at more than 40,000 sq ft is well above the competition's average of nearer 30,000, and leads to economies of scale.

Now, however, Asda has embarked upon a substantial capital expenditure programme to develop a bespoke distribution business and to install information technology systems. This will, among other things, provide an electronic point-of-sale service.

Combined with an active store opening programme, this will push up capital expenditure this year to £400 million — last year it was £250 million.

Although the business is naturally cash-generative, the £190 million of net cash in last year's balance sheet will be absorbed, leaving the company moderately geared by year-end. The benefits of these investments may not, however, come through for at least 18 months.

These factors combined with the modest growth from the underlying business — it advanced by 2 per cent last year on a comparable basis, stripping out recently established stores and inflation — has dampened investors' enthusiasm for Asda.

It is clear the group is undergoing a substantial change in the approach to the challenges facing it, but most of the strategies — moving more into the South-east, increasing fresh foods, extending own brand goods, installing electronic points of sale, and streamlining distribution systems — are already well under way in the competitors' camps.

Thus it is more difficult for Asda to offer a differentiated service, although it is unique in selling a range of non-food items.

Asda's supporters point to the additional margin gains from bringing the group's systems up to scratch. But the cost in the short term will affect earnings per share.

Looking further ahead Asda will have a strong cash flow once its investment programme is complete. However, its past record on diversification ideas — MFI and to a lesser extent Allied Carpets — are poor advertisements for previous attempts.

Asda should make about £250 million this year, including £5 million of property

COMPANY BRIEFS

HARLAND SIMON GP (Fin) Prospects encouraging with strong forward orders and continuing organic growth. Conditionally agreed acquisition of F & H Controls.
Pre-tax: £3.331 (£1.506)m
EPS: 15.5p (8.4p)
Div: 1.8p mkg 2.4p

CREIGHTON LABS (Fin) Continued optimism after record pre-tax profits up 117%, and with export markets buoyant. Further exploration of new product lines.
Pre-tax: £1.261 (£0.580)m
EPS: 23.8p (10.5p)
Div: 4.0p mkg 5.4p

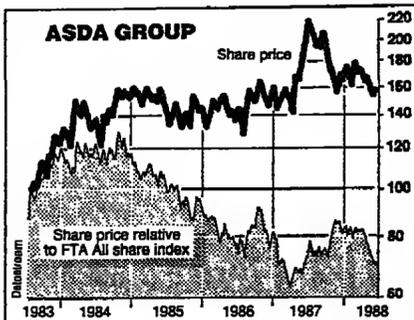
STODDARD SEKERS (Fin) Long-term prospects excellent since merger with Stoddard Holdings. Uncertain £/S rate effects outlook, but company is optimistic.
Pre-tax: £3.515 (£1.708)m
EPS: 7.5p (3.4p)
Div: 1.75p mkg 2.25p

BATLEYS (Fin) Continuing aggressive expansion leading to higher costs in borrowing, but company is fully committed to building base for future profits.
Pre-tax: £1.719 (£0.212)m
EPS: 7.13p (8.75p)
Div: 1.9p mkg 2.4p

PUBLISHING HLDGS (Fin) Profitability affected by October crash and volatility of international equity markets. Concentration on more profitable activities.
Pre-tax: £0.352 (£0.216)m
EPS: 2.20p (Loss) (1.85p)
Div:

BRISTOL STADIUM (Fin) Completion of Tesco store project. Turnover has now increased from £1.686m to £2.291m in the year to 31/12/87.
Pre-tax: £0.129 (£0.136)m
EPS: 2.24p (1.86p)
Div: 1.55p Fin

Ambitious Asda adapts to change



The shares, on a p/e of 11.5 times, are up with events and unlikely to perform better than the other food retailing leaders until the earnings outlook improves.

Sock Shop

Sock Shop's growth has been meteoric, but that is not the only thing about this extraordinary little company which falls into the "strange but true" category.

Its 80 pocket-size outlets, for instance, total just 21,000 sq ft altogether, equivalent to, say, the food section of a large Marks & Spencer, or roughly the size of a smallish Waitrose — giving the expression "niche retailing" a whole new meaning.

Yet its annual sales per sq ft are a staggering £1,550, one of the highest in the retailing business. Its Gatwick outlet was taking £4,660 per sq ft last year, and the volume of traffic was putting so much stress on the staff that Sock Shop has had to double its size to enable them to cope.

tights and stockings than anything else. From accounting for just 20 per cent of sales last autumn, the group expects own brand to reach 80 per cent of sales this autumn.

The next assault is on New York where the group already has 6 outlets and is looking to build up to 25 altogether. The merchandise is different to suit the more conservative American woman's taste, although Sock Shop is surprised to find that its best selling item in Manhattan is bold, brightly coloured, horizontally striped tights.

France is also in Sock Shop's sights.

The change in year end from September to February makes forecasting this year a little less straightforward. For the 12 months to September 30, pre-tax profits should be £3 million, compared with £1.83 million for the year to last September 30. For the 12 months to February 28, 1989, pre-tax profits should rise to £5.4 million, to give a prospective multiple of 15.7 — still stratospheric, if a little less so than usual, but deserved.

Ellis & Everard

Rising sales and higher margins from a better product mix allowed Ellis & Everard, the specialty chemicals group, to comfortably exceed market expectations last year.

The US business was expected to make good progress

helped both by a strong recovery at Prilman, the chemicals distributor and solvent company, and the inclusion of its Apperson commodity chemicals acquisition for the full period. But the impact of the weak dollar tempered forecasts to under £8 million.

In the event, the US profit contribution rose 59 per cent to just under £1 million, while adverse exchange rate movements caused profits to be a mere £150,000 lower than they would have been with constant exchange rates, allowing the group to report pre-tax profits up 24 per cent to £8.2 million.

But it is the growth in the higher margin specialty chemicals which is driving profits up. Last year, between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of its sales were commodity sales. However, the group would like to see this proportion reduced both through acquisitions, and by increasing specialty sales to its commodity customers — its customer base is now 20,000 strong in the UK and 3,500 in the US.

Within three years or so, as much as 30 per cent of sales could be from specialty chemicals, where margins are nearly double those of commodity chemicals — 10 per cent net on sales compared with 6 per cent on commodities.

This year, analysts are looking for pre-tax profits to grow by 13 per cent to £9.3 million.

Wolstenholme Rink soars after £28m bid

By Martin Waller

Shares in Wolstenholme Rink, the Lancashire maker of specialty chemicals, soared by 15p to 50p yesterday on news of a £28 million unwelcome bid approach from the Cookson Group, the industrial materials maker, which last week took a 6.3 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey.

The price was more than 50p ahead of the offer level as the market settled down to the preliminary skirmishes of what could be a protracted takeover bid, with both sides already at loggerheads over the sequence of events that led to the approach.

Mr Mike Henderson, chief executive of Cookson, said his company had been in discussions with Wolstenholme for the past few months, which had developed from talks on the possible purchase of a subsidiary to a full-blown takeover.

His target's management had clearly seen the industrial

don't see the industrial logic at all. We're very happy to remain independent," retorted Mr Tony Rink, joint managing director of the Lancashire company.

He said he had had an initial brief approach for Openshaw, which had not been followed up, from Cookson earlier this year. His next contact was last week, when he was told of the offer.

Cookson is offering five of its own shares for every three Wolstenholme shares, at almost 44p at yesterday's price. At the time discussions were started, said Mr Henderson, Wolstenholme shares were changing hands at about 31p. There is a 410p cash alternative.

Cookson wants to add on Openshaw, which comprises less than half of the group's business, to its own Horsell Graphic Industries subsidiary, a move which Mr Rink claims merely means the removal of a competitor.



Henderson: 'in discussions'

logic of Cookson's purchase of its Charles Openshaw subsidiary, which was acquired in 1977 and makes materials for graphics, but had too close family ties to the original metal powders business to contemplate being swallowed up, he said.

"As far as I am concerned, there have not been discussions going on for months. We

Buyout at Beecham for £53.8m

Beecham Group will reap \$91.5 million (£53.8 million) through the sale of its last US cosmetics business.

The group yesterday finalized the sale of Beecham Cosmetics — which in the year to end-March reported sales of \$115 million — in a management buyout which also includes Bankers Trust, a leading US bank. Beecham shares rose 5p to 477p.

Beecham is selling the Jovan and Vitabath brands and a production site at Bensenville, near Chicago. Of the total consideration, \$64.2 million will be paid in cash on completion of the agreement, which is expected within 30 days. The balance will be paid with an interest-bearing note due 1996.

AAH acquires retail chemist

AAH Holdings, the pharmaceutical supplier and fuel distributor, is paying a maximum of £350,000 in new shares for Actons Chemists, the Worcester retail chemist.

The number of new shares, to be issued at 272p, will depend on Actons's net assets and should be decided by the end of September.

Beckenham expands

The Beckenham Group, the Third Market-quoted supplier of ductwork for heating and ventilation systems, is paying up to £5 million for Curtis Tools, a distributor of tools to the engineering trade.

It is paying £1 million up front, £250,000 in new shares, with up to £4 million due depending on future profits.

Allied seeking cash to grow

Allied Restaurants, via a one-for-three placing at 71p a share, is raising £2.2 million net to fund further expansion.

The company is to invest in two leisure complexes — Tower Park in Poole, Dorset, and Streamham Bowl, in South London. Allied will also acquire the Zig Zag nightclub in Bournemouth.

Peck purchase

Polly Peck International, the overseas trader and electronics group, is paying about £2.5 million cash for FFB Mediterraneo, a Spanish company near Valencia, with interests in cold storage and the import and export of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Ruling on Hutton reaffirmed

Washington (Reuters) — The Securities and Exchange Commission upheld a previous finding that EF Hutton and Co took improper action when it sold shares of a stock from its market-maker inventory before executing a sale on behalf of a customer in the same stock.

According to the SEC, Hutton in 1984 took a customer order to sell stock above a specified price level, but sold shares from its own account at a higher price before executing the customer's trade.

The SEC panel, voting three-to-two, said that Hutton, now part of Shearson Lehman Hutton, failed to live up to its fiduciary responsibility to the customer.

Because it acted as an agent for the customer, the SEC said Hutton failed to maintain its fiduciary responsibility to the customer, including an obligation not to compete with the customer.

Hutton also failed over its responsibility to disclose its intent to compete, and over its agreement with the customer.

The SEC's decision upholds a previous finding by the National Association of Securities Dealers, whose sanction against Hutton was to send the firm a letter of caution about the matter.

Chief steps down at John Govett

By Alexandra Jackson

Mr Dwight Makins, the managing director of John Govett, the investment management group, is stepping down to make way for Mr Kevin Pakenham, who is taking over as chief executive of John Govett. He was managing director of Foreign and Colonial Asset Management.

Mr Makins has also left the board of John Govett's parent company, Berkeley Govett, with a settlement said to be "well under six figures."

Mr Arthur Trueger, chairman and chief executive of Berkeley Govett, said: "The parting was amicable. Mr Makins played an important part in the development of John Govett, but now we are developing it into a larger international business, we

Ballot for Broadwell

The USM offer for sale of 7.03 million shares in Broadwell Land, the property group brought to the market by Mr Iain Shearer, a former airline pilot, has been more than seven times oversubscribed, with applicants for a small number of shares facing a weighted ballot.

The company comes to the market valued at £39.7 million.

Shorts in talks on German link

By Robert Rodwell

Dornier is similarly anxious for a new project to follow production of its current Do228 28-seat commuter airliner and equally needs to spread the risk.

Now owned 65 per cent by Daimler-Benz it was compelled by its largest shareholder last month to stop all work on the proposed Do328, a faster 30-seat successor, after disagreement over ways of raising the estimated DM400 million (£128 million) needed to get it into production.

Daimler-Benz is reported to have proposed increasing Dornier's capitalization by DM300 million but was blocked by the Dornier family, which feared that it would

reduce its influence on the board. Under the terms of the 1985 Daimler-Benz takeover, the approval of 87.5 per cent of stockholders is needed for any increase in capital.

With a dominant and urgent interest between the Belland and Friedrichshafen companies in getting a new programme underway and in spreading costs, Shorts believe the Do328 cancellation increases the chances of forging an FFX partnership.

All-Shorts will say publicly however, is that they are talking to several companies in the hope of making a tough decision in the first quarter of 1989 for a maiden flight in 1991.

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UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS 1988

	Half year to 30th April 1988	Year to 31st October 1987	Year to 31st October 1988
	£m	£m	£m
Sales	619	90	406
Profit before tax	28	5	29
Earnings per share	2.4p	1.7p	6.6p
Dividends per share	0.6p	0.2p	0.8p

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Peachey shares leap 82p on confirmation of bid talks

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Peachey Property Corporation, which owns London's famous Carnaby Street, soared yesterday after it confirmed it was holding takeover talks with Wereldhave, the Dutch property investment group.

The shares jumped 82p to 623p, valuing the company at £268 million, having been at 368p this year. Mr John Brown, Peachey's managing director, said Wereldhave had acquired a 10.4 per cent stake and was seeking a recommendation from the board for a cash offer.

"The board and its advisers consider Wereldhave to be a

bona fide potential offeror and intend therefore in shareholders' interests to enter into discussions to see if terms for such an offer can be agreed," he said. Shareholders were urged to sit tight while talks, which started over the weekend, continue this week.

Peachey shares rose last week amid speculation that a foreign company was stake-building. Wereldhave had been nursing a holding of just under 5 per cent for several months but took its stake above the disclosure level.

Although Peachey is best known for its Carnaby Street estate - which accounts for 22 per cent of its portfolio - it has a valuable mix of shops

and offices and has benefited from the growth in rents in London and the South-east in the past year. City estimates predict a rise in its asset value for the current year to between 540p and 600p.

Mr Brown said the talks with Wereldhave had gone "very favourably" but so far no firm takeover figure had been put on the table. "It is a hot market for property and if they feel Peachey's properties are worth a hot price then it is up to them."

But Mr Hans van der Made, the treasurer for Wereldhave, said yesterday: "Our discussions will be focusing on what we think is a fair price. We are not a company who

will be prepared to overpay."

Wereldhave, valued at about £460 million, has been trying to expand its business in Britain, which accounts for just 2 per cent of its assets. It has built up a strong property portfolio, with 46 per cent in The Netherlands and the rest in America, France, West Germany and Belgium.

Wereldhave made clear it is keen for Peachey's management to stay on if it launches a bid. "We have looked at Peachey and found it is a very interesting company. There is some work which could be done on it but it meets our aim in broadening our investments across Europe," said Mr van der Made.

Knobs & Knockers rises 52%

Knobs & Knockers, the architectural ironmongery to estate agency group, produced pre-tax profits up 52 per cent to £935,000 in its first full-year figures since its USM flotation last June.

Turnover grew 41 per cent to £10.24 million. A final dividend of 1.33p makes a 2p total for the year.

The figures include £180,000 pre-tax from January's acquisition, Beaver Construction Supplies.

Bargets, the estate agency side, saw turnover and profits up almost 19 per cent and almost 23 per cent respectively.

Lacre in £4m merger deal

A merger has been arranged between the country's two largest municipal vehicle manufacturers - Lacre, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and PD Engineers UK of Llantrisant, South Wales.

Lacre, which makes road-sweepers and refuse collection vehicles, is paying £4 million for PD.

Evode up 55%

Evode, the speciality chemicals manufacturer, turned in pre-tax profits of nearly £4 million in the opening half of this year, up 55 per cent. Earnings per share increased 27 per cent to 6.07p. The interim dividend was 1.42p.

Cliffords buys

Cliffords Dairies is buying Danby's Foods, the frozen ready-meals company of Masham, North Yorkshire, for £575,000 in a mixture of shares, cash and loan notes.

Ellis approval

Ellis & Goldstein has recommended the increased offer by Berkerex, the fellow clothing group, after a weekend of deliberation. The 140p share was communicated to Ellis on Thursday.

Same dividend

Stocklake Holdings, the steel stockholder, is maintaining its dividend at 12p a share with an unchanged final 9p, in spite of profits up to £3.53 million. Net earnings were 46.7p (39.8p) a share.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Conflicting accounts around a spicy secret

Mr Julian Alexander Bethune Pilkington is an accountant whose head seems lodged too far below the parapet. He is the Spicer & Oppenheim partner who back in August 1986 had a secret meeting with a Barlow Clowes director who voiced concerns about the company.

He is also, presumably, the partner who allowed his partnership to put its name to a clean audit certificate for Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers (BCGM), covering the period to June 30 1986. The audit was signed in February 1987 - days before the Barlow Clowes director formally resigned from BCGM.

The Times has spoken to the Barlow Clowes director, who asked us not to name him in print. Spicer & Oppenheim did, however, name him, in a statement on Friday night (without, of course, naming Mr Pilkington, their own partner), as Mr Derek Tree. Mr Tree is a well-respected banker, as Mr Pilkington is a well-respected accountant.

Friday's statement from Spicer, incidentally, was issued after The Times, having given the matter careful consideration, declined Spicer's requests that their partner, Mr Pilkington, not be named in the article which was researched and written by Lawrence Lever and published on Saturday morning.

Those requests went through several layers of public relations people, and ended with a final request from Spicer's lawyers, Linklaters, to The Times' legal department.

Readers should know that Spicer's first statements to The Times made no mention of Mr Pilkington's personal involvement.

When The Times first approached Spicer, a spokeswoman said: "There was a meeting with our people, with the audit team, with a partner present."

When this version was challenged by The Times the following day, the spokeswoman admitted that the meeting had been a one-to-one meeting between Mr Pilkington and Mr Tree. When, last week, we tried to speak to Mr Pilkington, Spicer & Oppenheim would not allow him to be interviewed.

That is a pity, because there are other differences in accounts of the nature of the conversations between Messrs Tree and Pilkington, and Mr Tree's version of events barely tallies with that put out by a Spicer on Friday.

Several questions remain unanswered. What exactly was said at the evening meeting between Mr Tree and Mr Pilkington on August 15, 1986? Whose recollection is accurate?

Mr Tree says that he told Mr Pilkington of his concern that clients records may have been altered. That was the purpose of the meeting, he says.

Spicer's spokesperson maintains that general concerns were mentioned by Mr Tree but that, even when pressed, he declined to mention anything specific.

Spicer says that in December 1986, it checked with Mr Tree who then said that things had greatly improved. Mr Tree has no recollection of this.

When exactly did Spicer know that two months later Mr Tree had resigned?

Did Spicer seek to ascertain from Mr Tree, who was after all the managing director of BCGM and the man who had voiced concerns, why he had resigned?

We tried again yesterday to reach Mr Pilkington, but were denied access. We have heard Mr Tree's version of events, and in the interests of fairness, would like to hear Mr Pilkington's.

And let us hope that he is able to be more forthcoming than his firm was in Friday's statement.

Spicer introduced themselves as "former auditors for a limited period to the UK business of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers", but did not mention that they were also auditors to Barlow Clowes & Partners (the UK partnership which was also licensed by the DTI), Barlow Clowes International, Gilt Archives Ltd, Barlow Clowes Nominees Ltd, Barlow Clowes (UK) Ltd, and Barlow Clowes Unit Trust Ltd. They were not responsible for the audit of clients' money held overseas.

All in all, according to the listing particulars for the acquisition of Barlow Clowes by James Ferguson, Spicer was auditor to seven companies or partnerships within the Barlow Clowes group.

Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry seems to be ducking and diving under an increasing weight of evidence that warnings about the Barlow Clowes operation were coming in from all directions.

Should they not have listened, even if some of the warnings were light on evidence?

Asda advances 12% to £215m

By Alexandra Jackson

Asda Group, the supermarket chain, yesterday reported results in the middle of the range of market expectations with a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £215.3 million. But this was not good enough to stop the shares losing 5p to 158p.

Fully diluted earnings per share advanced from 11.2p to 12.1p while sales grew by 2.3 per cent to £2.7 billion. A final dividend of 2.5p was declared, making a total of 4.1p, up from 3.5p last time.

The figures included a sales contribution of £266.2 million from MFI and the dairy division of Associated Fresh Foods, both now sold. They added £19.9 million to pre-tax profits.

The enlarged MFI business, including Hygena kitchens, in which Asda has a 25 per cent share, contributed £6.5 million to the results.

The core Asda stores business increased sales by 12.8 per cent to £2.3 billion. Of

this, new stores accounted for 9.3 per cent, comparable stores 2 per cent and inflation 1.5 per cent. The rate of organic growth slowed in the second half of the year.

Nine new stores were opened last year, taking the total to 120 outlets. Fourteen stores are due to open this year.

Store refurbishments include increasing total space and improvements.

Mr John Hardman, the group chairman and chief executive, said Asda aimed to improve its systems and remained committed to the Allied Carpets division which is expanding and has a new management team.

The positive payback on the £150 million investment in eight distribution centres will not be noticeable until 1990-91.

Property development profits added £5.4 million to profits last year.



Looking to diversify: John Hardman, group chairman

Times, page 26

Carclo Engineering moves ahead to £8m

Mr John Ewart, chairman of Carclo Engineering, the industrial group, is taking a breather from stock market operations which nearly came badly unstuck.

He had picked up a share stake in Bridon, the engineer and wire rope manufacturer, just before the stock market crash, and when the shares collapsed he was left showing a nasty loss.

But fortunately he was able to offset the loss against profits made on the sale of his

11 per cent holding in Derwent Stamping, the manufacturer of aluminium castings.

The outcome of the disposal of the two stakes is an extraordinary profit of £762,000 disclosed yesterday when he announced full-year pre-tax profits for the group of £8.1 million, up from £5 million.

Turnover is up from £67 million to £102 million and earnings per share are up 38 per cent at 13.5p a share.

EEC's monetary group to report by next April

The European Economic Community committee investigating monetary integration within the community will hold its first formal session in September and report by mid-April next year.

Informal discussions on furthering the process of monetary union took place at the monthly meeting of central bank governors at the Bank for International Settlements, in Basle, yesterday.

The real work of the committee, chaired by M Jacques Delors, the president of the

European Commission, will begin after the summer.

The committee consists of 11 EEC central bank governors and four outside experts.

At Britain's insistence the committee excluded a European central bank and a single European currency in its terms of reference.

Expectations are that one of the main recommendations will be British membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS.

BP Gold set for \$200m US flotation

By Derek Hazris Industrial Editor

BP is planning to float off between 15 and 20 per cent of its gold mining subsidiary, BP Gold, on the New York Stock Exchange, although the earliest likely date is the autumn.

BP has been considering a float for some time, not so much to raise cash as to spread its risks. It is also seen as a way of brightening BP Gold's profile in America.

The flotation will raise about \$200 million (£117 million), giving BP Gold -

mainly comprising BP's gold mining interests in the US - a capitalization of about \$1 billion (about £588 million).

BP Gold has proven or probable gold reserves of about 28 million troy ounces, the second largest in the US after Newmont Gold.

BP Gold's biggest producer in the US will be its reopened Bingham Canyon copper mine in Utah, which BP says is expected to yield about 300,000 ounces of gold a year.

The prime development outside North America is

likely to be the Lihir Island mine in Papua New Guinea. A feasibility study, which has already cost about \$60 million, is planned to end by March, and if approval is received, the mine is expected to produce between 400,000 and 500,000 ounces of gold a year by the early 1990s.

Because BP Gold is being projected as an American enterprise, the mining interests in South Africa and Canada are being excluded and become part of BP Minerals International, which

combines BP's mineral interests apart from oil, gas and coal.

The City is still waiting for the Kuwait Investment Office to make a move on its 22 per cent BP stake after the Kuwait central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul-Aziz al-Sabah, hinted of a possible reduction in the shareholding.

But a sale at the moment would probably leave the KIO facing a substantial loss. Sheikh Salem also emphasized the long-term nature of the investment.

Axe falls at Phillips & Drew

Three former partners of the stockbroker Phillips & Drew have been dismissed. Peter Coulkett, David Harold and Roger Pearson are among eight senior employees of the firm who were dismissed - with just 20 minutes to clear their desks - on Friday. Among the others whose "employment has been terminated" are Tony Sharp and David Theophilus, once dealers on the floor of the Exchange, and George Edwards, who ran the Birmingham market-maker Edwards, Jones and Woollocks, bought by Phillips & Drew shortly before Big Bang. Stressing, unusually, that the departures are not redundancies, a spokesman tells me: "The word redundancy implies a reduction in numbers and we are not planning any reduction, we are still recruiting. Our projected numbers at the year-end are higher than at present."

The names of those leaving are understood to have been on a "hit list" for more than a week - as heralded in this column last Tuesday - and their departures are seen as balancing the near-doubling of salaries paid to some of Phillips & Drew's rising stars who had, I'm told, threatened to go elsewhere for more money. Although UBS, its Swiss parent, is said to be forcing Phillips & Drew to stick rigidly to its 1988 budget, the move to oust this latest batch of employees came, I'm assured, from within Phillips & Drew itself.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ancient Japanese ploy

Lord Young's advance invitation to Hajime Tamura, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, to play a golf match at St Andrews, seemed an ideal goodwill gesture to a nation of golf fanatics. Unfortunately, Tamura was the exception. "I had never played golf," he explained yesterday. "But I felt it would be a pity to miss this opportunity, so I started practising and played five half rounds before I came." Discovering the problem, Young

diplomatically arranged a fourball, playing with Tamura against another team headed by one of Tamura's delegation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries President Yotaro Iida. The ministers duly won. Tamura attributed this to his host. But there was, I now learn, another explanation for their victory, more in keeping with Japanese traditions. Iida, sitting alongside the minister, smiled quietly to himself. He had, of course, allowed the opposing team to win.

Raven's perch

Ladykiller Stephen Raven, reputed to be one of the smoothest and best-looking men in the Square Mile, has landed

on his feet again after his brief and fruitless spell as deputy MD of County NatWest. Raven, who is aged 50, and chairman of several stock exchange committees - including its European 1992 Committee and UK Equity Market Committee - is, with effect from August 15, joining the board of Charles Fulton Securities, the international stockbroking arm of the ICH group. He will also become chairman of Charles Fulton (IDB) and Charles Fulton Equity IDB, its UK gilt and equity inter-dealer brokers. Raven, who leaves today for a month-long holiday at his villa in Spain, left County in January, after less than a year. Prior to that he was with Warburg Securities for 33 years. "This new job is not a million miles from where I started out, as a stock jobber," he tells me.

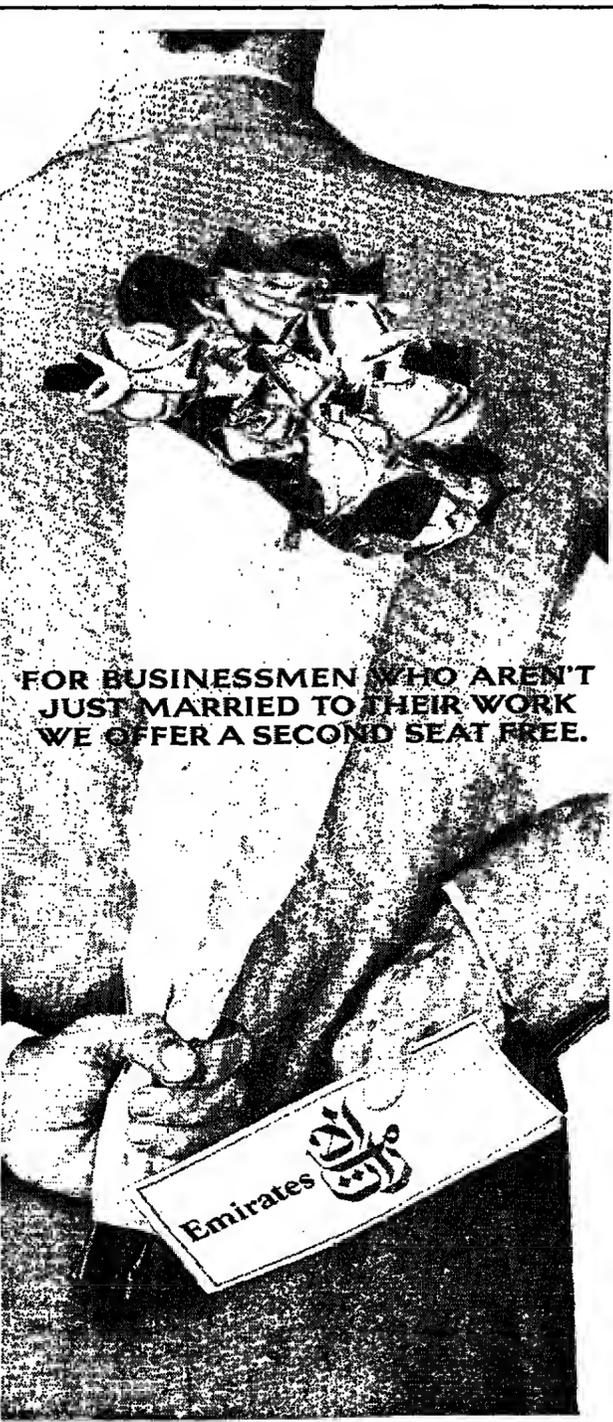


Fund men on parade

Among the great and the good from the City at the Woolworth Trophy polo match at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, on Sunday, I spied Lord Annaly, a one-time partner of V Greenwell & Co and now a director of Greenwell Montagu, the private client broker at Midland Bank. Annaly's official excuse for being there was to escort Beverly, his third wife, who is some 15 years his junior, and the driving force behind a fledgling charity, the Anastasia Trust, founded two years ago to help deaf people overcome their disability. But while Lady Annaly picked up a £25,000 cheque from Woolies chief executive Geoff Mulcahy, via the Duchess of York - which will be used to help fund a residential home for young deaf adults in South London and an international deaf cultural centre - her 61-year-old husband was busy spotting familiar faces. For, mixing with the usual speculator City slickers - including almost every fund manager who ever bought a Woolworth share. And some admitted that they would have been happier if it had rained. For in case of rain, Woolies had brought along board games and Sunday papers - an idyllic way for them to spend their day of rest.

A horrifying new US fad has developed. According to a survey by Baskin-Robbins, the ice cream chain, the natives eat it with, in order of popularity, crisps, pizza and chips.

Carol Leonard



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are concerned - a stepping stone to the Indian subcontinent, Far East and Australasia - it looks as though a business trip is about to turn into a welcome break for two.

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STOCK MARKETS

NEW YORK

Brewers under shadow of US claims

The spectre of product liability has already taken its toll of the US and British tobacco companies and now threatens to wreak the same havoc on the drinks industry.

Two claims against alcohol companies have already been lodged in US courts and others are expected to follow.

A case in Pennsylvania courts brought by a woman alleging that her husband's beer consumption caused pancreatitis and led to his death at the age of 26 was thrown out.

Some women in Seattle are also alleging that alcohol consumption, while they were pregnant, has resulted in their children being born deformed.

Mr Noel Sloan, analyst at Kleinwort Greaveson, is worried about the pending law suits and is urging clients to reduce their holding in Anheuser Busch.

A shadow could also hang over our own brewery shares. "That is the worst-case scenario. There is less of a transatlantic link in the case of

brewing than there is in the case of smoking," says Mr Sloan.

But the American brewers are clearly worried about the final outcome. "The story is not a new one but I have put forward a different view," he adds.

Analysts on Wall Street have not even stopped to think about the possible consequences yet.

But the British brewers appeared unperturbed about the whole thing. Allied Lyons rose 3p to 436p.

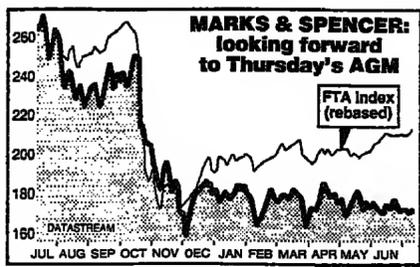
Scottish & Newcastle 6p to 792p, Whitebread B 15p to 435p, while Grand Metropolitan slipped 2p to 510p.

Ford Sellar Morris, the USM-quoted property developer and retailer, rose another 5p to 119p.

Full-year figures today should make pleasant reading. They should show a £5 million turnaround from a loss of £2.2 million to at least £3 million profit for the 16 months to April 30.

Elsewhere in the market, blue chips marked time as investors showed reluctance to commit funds ahead of this week's batch of economic statistics which include the all-important US trade figures on Friday.

Interest was confined to



second liners and takeover favourites. The FT-SE 100 share index fluctuated within narrow limits before closing 0.4 points lower at 1,876.8.

The FT 30 share index ended 3.7 points higher at 1,510.5. Gilt-edged stocks closed well below the best with improvements of 1/4% after the higher-than-expected input and output producer prices.

BSR International, the Hong Kong-based electronics group, was an early mover jumping 1 1/2p to 97p. The board says it has received an approach about a possible merger but is not naming names.

The market thinks it could be a European suitor and is already looking for some favourable terms. At these levels, the entire group is valued at £168 million.

Shares of Marks & Spencer, the jewel in the high street's crown, held steady at 173p. Mr Zak Keshavjee, stores analyst at SBCE Savory Millin, the broker, reckons they should soon start to improve.

He predicts a bounce of between 15p and 20p over the

short-term following Thursday's annual general meeting. He says the current price marks a relative low since mid-1980 and the shares are oversold.

He expects M&S to please its followers with some bullish news about first-quarter trading, particularly as last year's depressing first-half figures, that showed sales up about 5 per cent with clothing up by a meagre 2 per cent, provide such a poor year-on-year comparison.

The shares' rating has been undermined by concern surrounding future expansion. Guinness, where the French drinks and distribution group LVMH last week took a 10 per cent stake at 430p a share, firmed 3p to 349p.

Another big buyer decided to pay over the odds picking up 2.5 million shares at 355p each. Someone was clearly impressed with the deal.

into the American food retail market. But Mr Keshavjee allays these fears by claiming that M&S is looking to make two small acquisitions totalling about £150 million and building up the business organically over an extended time-scale.

Dixons, the high street elec-

trical retailer, recently hit by the departure of Mr Egon von Greyerz, the executive deputy chairman and financial director, rose 4p to 181p on a turnover of nearly 5 million shares.

It was boosted by reports from Japan that the company has had talks with Best Denki, a Japanese electrical retailer, with a view to a joint venture aimed at combining these two powers of their own labels.

If the deal does come off, it will involve cross-shareholding between the two although the Japanese stake in Dixons would be nominal.

Dixons reports annual results for the year to April tomorrow and dealers are expecting them to be disappointing.

Analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profits range between £104 million and £109 million, including a first-time contribution from Silo, the US acquisition, against £102.6 last time.

However, the figures have generally been discounted by the market. Many brokers think that the worst is now over and Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman, should announce tomorrow's figures along with a bullish statement about prospects.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Dow edges higher in quiet trading

(Reuters) - Wall Street stocks were mainly higher in a quiet opening session.

"Trading is very, very quiet and is likely to stay that way for the rest of the week," said Mr Newton Zinder, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton, the securities dealer.

The Dow Jones industrial average was six points up in early trading with stocks gaining ground holding a slight lead over those declining.

Atlas Corp rose one point to 34 1/2. It plans to raise gold

production by 65 per cent from January.

Mr James Andrews, equity trade manager of Janney Montgomery Scott, the securities house, said: "There's some upward pressure on interest rates due to the higher-than-expected gain in jobs reported on Friday."

Frankfurt (AP-Dow Jones) - In moderate trading, the Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, was down 8.3 points at 1,499.0.

Nikkei rise checked by concern over dollar

(Reuters) - Share prices closed higher yesterday, mainly on buying of domestic demand-related shares, but concern about the direction of the yen/dollar rate dissuaded investors from taking significant positions, brokers said.

"The market is generally mixed and investors are sidelined," said Mr Akio Ishida, deputy general manager at Yasuda Trust Fund.

The Nikkei index gained 68.91 points, or 0.25 per cent, to close at 27,985.99. It rose 188.95 points on Friday.

Advancing shares led declining issues by six to five in

active turnover of 1.1 billion shares against 1.4 billion on Friday.

Singapore - Share prices closed mixed in quiet trading, with the Straits Times industrial index rising 2.13 points to close at 1,095.80.

Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index rose 6.69 points to finish at 2,759.59 in quiet trading, featuring what brokers called a technically-based demand from local investors.

The broader-based Hong Kong index gained 3.81 to 1,823.63.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices. Includes entries for AMR, ASA, Alcoa, Allied Signal, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for company name, price, and quantity. Includes Rockfort (140p), SAunderson Elec, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table listing traditional options with columns for last trading date, last declaration, and settlement date.

BRITISH STEEL RESULTS.

Another year of increased profits.

Table comparing British Steel performance for 2 April 1988 and 28 March 1987. Metrics include Turnover (£4116m vs £3461m), Profit for the Year (£410m vs £178m), and Deliveries (12.1m vs 10.3m tonnes).

"The past year has been a momentous one for the British Steel Corporation. The very encouraging improvement which was reported last year has been maintained and profits have substantially increased.

"The present profit position of British Steel is the reward for the radical measures taken over past years to rationalise and restructure the operations of the business, allied with benefits increasingly coming through from well directed investment in plant and equipment, which have together given us a more competitive cost base.

financial policies has been reflected in recent growth in the United Kingdom economy appreciably above the European Community average. Our production has therefore been higher than for several years, backed by consistently good levels of plant performance.

"That British Steel has achieved the business success it has is due to the efforts of all who are and have been involved in it. A very important contribution has been made by the extent to which we in British Steel have linked pay increases to productivity and to other improvements."



Sir Robert Scholey, Chairman, British Steel.

Advertisement for Citycall Bulletin. Text: "Our market report is never more than 30 minutes old. 0898 12 12 20 CITYCALL BULLETIN"

ALPHA STOCKS

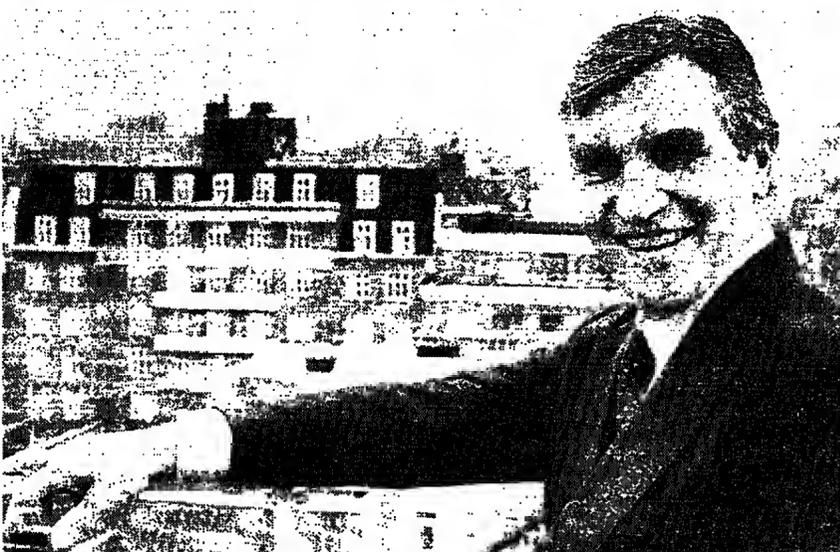
Table of Alpha Stocks with columns for company names and share prices.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London Traded Options with columns for company names, call/put prices, and dates.

Walker aims to reign in Spain

George Walker is aiming to take his company to the top of the European leisure league, reports Geoffrey Foster



Contending for a place in the sun: George Walker is as enthusiastic as ever in his drive to take Brent Walker forward

George Walker, the chairman and chief executive of Brent Walker, the leisure group, is riding the crest of a Spanish wave.

His company's share price continues to scale new heights as the City recognizes that he is well on the way to making Brent Walker one of Europe's largest and most exciting leisure groups.

One would think Mr Walker, aged 58, would be content to rest easy and reflect on his impressive record of building up the company from a meagre £794,000 pre-tax profit in 1983 to a £222 million empire expected to reveal pre-tax profits of about £36 million in the current year.

His enthusiasm is greater than ever as he spends most of his time commuting from his head office in Knightsbridge, London, to the group's newly-acquired property and leisure developments in northern France and Spain.

This year, Brent paid £9.8 million for a 76 per cent interest - soon to be increased to 93 per cent - in Puerto Sherry, a new holiday complex and marina development near Jerez in South-west Spain, overlooking the Bay of Cadiz, with the sole aim of making it the most exclusive marina in Europe.

Construction work has begun, and plans for a 1,000-berth marina with dry dock facilities for 2,000 boats, with cranes capable of lifting boats

up to 200 tonnes, are under way.

On the same site, Brent Walker has been granted planning permission for 1,000 residential properties, including 500 exclusive four- and five-bedroom villas, 90 retail units, a yacht club, two 120-bedroom hotels, 60 luxury suites, and leisure facilities.

These include three swimming pools, a nightclub, bars and restaurants, conference centre, an 18-hole golf course, tennis and squash courts and a membership-only yacht club and casino.

Spaniards have already left £2 million on deposit with Brent Walker for the purchase of flats - priced between £90,000 and £120,000 - and Mr Walker is confident that even the luxury suites, with prices of £300,000 and above,

will be snapped up, mainly by Spanish, French or West German sunseekers.

The whole Spanish acquisition will pay for itself in no time at all; Mr Walker is confident that his marina will attract the wealthy yachtsmen and their families.

Several Olympic sailing teams are training at the venue, which also attracts important regattas and ocean racing throughout the year.

The Puerto Sherry marina has been earmarked to hold the yachting and sailing races when the Olympic Games reach Spain in 1992.

To complement Puerto Sherry, Mr Walker has ventured a few miles inland from the marina and bought a huge water theme park for £1.75 million.

The appropriately named "Aquasherry" offers all-day family entertainment in the sun, with water chutes to cater for all ages. The site, built into the cliffside, has the potential for other leisure activities.

Mr Walker has invited Mr Harvey Goldsmith, the popular music promoter, to visit the site next year and give his opinion on whether a rock concert could be held there. Mr Walker is confident that more than 25,000 people could be seated at Aquasherry in complete comfort.

Brent Walker also owns 1,500 acres of freehold land around Le Touquet, northern France, including a hotel, clubhouse, casino and three golf courses. It has planning consent for up to 100 homes, a new 120-bed hotel and leisure centre, and an 18-hole golf course.

Parkdale plans to move into hotels

By Cliff Feltham

Parkdale Holdings, the property company now headed by Sir Peter Parker, the former chairman of British Rail, is about to move into the hotels business.

The company has no plans for competing with Trusthouse Forte or the Savoy, but Mr Robert Breare, the chief executive, is all set to announce the acquisition of what could be the first of a chain of small, up-market, country-based hotels or coaching inns.

He has picked places such as Bath, Ipswich, and other provincial centres as ideal for building up a group of exclusive hotels with up to 40 bedrooms, offering luxury weekend breaks, with a strong midweek appeal for businessmen.

Parkdale expects to spend close on £15 million during the current year on buying hotels suitable to launch the new division.

Mr Breare is enthusiastic about gaining a niche in what he describes as the market for "oak beams, inglenook fireplaces and lots of five-star luxury." The steady earnings flow generated by a hotel division would also help to iron out the bumps on the property dealing side.

"It is something we have been looking at closely for some time and I would like to get into the business fairly quickly. It is an area of the hotel market a lot of the majors cannot be bothered getting involved with.

"We may have to spend a bit on the places we buy to get them just right but I am sure it will be worth it in the end."

Another idea being actively pursued is nursing homes - which other hotel companies have also found in be compatible.

Feldstein to join Robeco

Mr Martin Feldstein, the former chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, has been appointed adviser to the Dutch investment group, Rotterdamsch Beleggingsconsortium (Robeco).

BASE LENDING RATES

Table of Base Lending Rates for various banks and institutions.

Advertisement for NSM plc, featuring a large logo and text describing the company's reorganization and expansion into opencast mining.

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Advertisement for NSM (formerly Burnett & Hallamshire), describing its reorganization and expansion into opencast coal contractors in the United Kingdom.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for Bid, Offer, and various fund names like ASSET UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, EQUITY & LAW, and others.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for High/Low Company, Bid, Offer, and various security names.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Bid, Offer, and various trust names.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for Sterling Index, Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and Other Sterling Rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various countries including Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore, etc.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates including Euro Money Deposits and Gold prices.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading data for various commodities.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for LONDON METAL EXCHANGE and LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Detailed table of London financial futures contracts, including interest rate and currency futures.

TECHNOLOGY

Gorky Street sales

From Susan Harris in Moscow

Ingenuity is needed to turn a profit in the Soviet Union. Western firms are lining up to try to take advantage of a reforming 1987 law that lets Soviet and foreign enterprises open joint business ventures.

But it is not easy to hit on a recipe for commercial success. Business consultants said visiting company delegations often bring with enthusiasm when they arrive. Many flounder, however, in initial negotiations.

They are soon baffled by the complexities of Soviet joint venture law and are handicapped by lack of experience in dealing with Soviet officials and by a sketchy knowledge of the market.

Almost 60 joint venture agreements have been signed since 1987. But only a handful of new companies are actually working. Computer firm Interquadro is one of the few.

It is a joint venture with Italian, Soviet and French partners, and was created last December to tap a vast market for computer software and hardware in the Soviet Union.

Alexandre Kaplan, a Frenchman and vice-general manager, said in the firm's offices on Gorky Street, central Moscow, that the Soviet Union has just 1,000 personal computers. "The need is five to 10 million," he said.

Interquadro, the fruit of Mr Kaplan's years of experience at the Moscow office of Antral-Utec, the French computer firm, plans to change this. Antral-Utec has a 20 per cent stake in Interquadro, the Soviet Education Ministry 40 per cent, Gosagroprom, the super-ministry for agriculture, 35 per cent and Italian import-export company Delta Trading five per cent. Its share capital is roubles 300,000.

Mr Kaplan intends to break into the market gradually before opening a computer sales outlet for hard currency in Gorky Street by the end of the year.

Interquadro has already started a service department for computers and a training school for user and programmers. Its staff of 60 Russians, an Italian marketing manager and a French technical manager, has been trained abroad.

It is also developing systems for controlling output at diamond and watch factories in the Moscow region and in the Urals, and is working on an irrigation programme for Gosagroprom, which it expects to be a major client as it switches to computer monitoring of agricultural production.

Under the joint venture law, foreign companies may have no more than 49 per cent stake in a joint business, which must employ a certain percentage of Soviet staff.

The law also restricts the amount of profit that can be repatriated in hard currency. Some companies have solved this by finding a product that can be exported for hard currency.

Others opted for barter deals, usually involving natural resources.

Wealth creation to spur IT research

By John Lamb

John Butcher, the Minister for Industry and Consumer Affairs, last week hit out at critics who he said have questioned whether Britain has a programme for information technology (IT) research to replace the Alvey programme which officially ends this year.

"I welcome this opportunity to remind everyone that the Government's new national programme is at an advanced stage," he told an audience at the 1988 UK IT Conference at Swansea University. The conference was the fourth and final get-together of those taking part in the Alvey programme.

Industrialists and academics have until August 12 to submit outline research plans to the Information Engineering Directorate (IED) which will now oversee the IT interests of both the Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC). The SERC funds university researchers.

The DTI has set aside £29 million for the national programme over the next three years, while SERC will be contributing £55 million over a five year period.

A committee, led by Dr Nigel Home, technical director of electronics company STC, has been set up to advise

on what technologies to back and who should be awarded grants.

Subsidiary committees will monitor progress in individual areas of research. Academics will be completely funded by the IED, industrial concerns will be able to claim up to 50 per cent of their costs.

The committees will take a final decision on work to be sponsored and budgets for individual topics in September.

But Mr Butcher made it clear that there would be changes. For instance, research into expert systems—software that mimics human expertise—and into standards will not find a place in the new programme.

Large scale projects, Mr Butcher was at pains to point out, will have to look to Europe for finance and for collaborators.

"It makes no sense for every European country to have its own parallel computer or knowledge base" he argued.

Britain is contributing £200 million to Esprit II, the five year European collaborative IT research programme and expects a pro rata share of research contracts.

An announcement on the fate of Esprit II bids—the programme has been heavily oversubscribed—is imminent. With larger companies looking to Europe, the national programme will concentrate on what is appropriate for Britain, said Tim Walker, head of the IED.

"It won't just block in gaps for Esprit." One of the Alvey programme's big successes was the way it had encouraged collaboration, Mr Butcher said. But "whatever the particular merits of collaborative research and development it is not an end in itself. Ultimately it must be the promoter of wealth creation," he added.

In future the IED will attempt to foster collaboration between researchers in different fields of IT research. So, for example, experts in optics will work with colleagues in computer vision and so on



Rebuffing the critics: John Butcher, Minister for Industry and Consumer Affairs

leading to the idea of setting up interdisciplinary research centres.

Research into IT has been arranged into three streams. They cover work on very large scale integration chips including the computer aided design needed to produce them: systems architecture, which is to do with new styles of computer, and systems engineering, the production of software and development of techniques for human communication with computers.

Education and training will now feature in the programme including the development of distance learning or correspondence courses in IT.

If in doubt, then try an interactive video

PERSPECTIVE

Retailers are always looking for new ways to improve their competitive edge. The design revolution has transformed the high street over the past four or five years, but is probably just about running out of steam.

Increasing floor space and simply pushing more of the product at the customer more quickly also has its limitations. But, one way that has not been as thoroughly tried as it might, is training.

Other industries, such as electronics, show quite clearly that the performance you get from your staff is directly related to the quality of the training you give them.

Several of the biggest retail groups, such as Marks & Spencer, have devoted a lot of time and money to training, but many other companies in the business undoubtedly find it difficult.

The main reasons are the high staff turnover, which makes employers reluctant to spend money on employees who may quickly move on, and the variable hours worked by shop staff.

Now there is a technological opportunity to change that with interactive video, a mixture of computer and video techniques.

If it is to be effective the training needs to be exciting, the trainee has to be hooked; and it must deliver a consistent message. But, above all, because of the fragmented nature of the retail trade with people working a whole range of different hours, the training must be capable of being delivered at times and places that fit in with the individual business circumstances.

The part-time worker to a department store, or the shift worker doing the late turn in a hypermarket which opens

virtually dawn to dusk, have as much right to good training as those who work more usual hours.

First there are the needs of the employee. If an interactive video system is located at some convenient point in the staff quarters the trainee can simply plug himself in for the next lesson whenever he likes, be it at the end of the workday, or perhaps during a half-hour break set aside for the day.

The trainee gets a system which works at his pace and which can be programmed

twice that for the other media. There are now several real examples of this in action. The do-it-yourself group B & Q, for instance, now has its own custom-designed training course on interactive disc.

There could be a considerable bonus if retailers adopted interactive techniques. In many fields of retailing the products themselves are becoming technically very advanced and customers are certainly becoming more demanding.

Somebody who wants to buy a kitchen will want to know about sophisticated things like the compatibility of different colours. The purchaser of a portable computer will have questions about RAMs and ROMs, MS-DOS and kilobytes.

We are getting to the stage where we have to decide whether sales people are those with good interpersonal skills or a technical expert. We have probably reached the point where, because of the sheer weight of information, he can no longer be both.

But if sales staff cannot realistically wear both hats, perhaps they could learn to use interactive video not just as a training system but as a sales aid.

Retailers such as Currys and Dixons are already committed to this sort of practical approach.

American experience in a variety of different retail trades has shown clearly that people will choose to go to stores with this sort of electronic backup in preference to those which have not.

I believe we will see the same sort of trend here. The author is chairman of Convergent Communications, which specialises in interactive video training.

with, for example, multiple choice questionnaires or even games to see whether he has understood the lesson. It cuts the actual training time significantly, by up to half in many cases.

And, compared with other electronic systems, it delivers the message better.

Research which compared sound, video and interactive video found that the retention rate for messages delivered by interactive video was about

number of problems overlooked by Washington. Nagasaki Osaka will oversee 100 of the foreign researchers under the jurisdiction of the governmental Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

He says promising American scientists, eligible for 30 to 40 of the endowments, are not the most likely candidates to respond to the new program.

"Apart from the problems of language and style of living, many researchers at the start or the peak of their careers are not that interested in coming to Japan... they're afraid of being left behind by their colleagues back home."

Tokyo University Professor Shoji Tanaka, one of the world's leading superconductivity researchers, and head of the government's International Superconductivity Technology Center, questions the intentions of the US government and industry.

He says he found no takers when he recently visited the United States in an attempt to woo American corporate participation in the new superconductivity project despite deep concern that Japan was taking the lead in the field, which promises a bounty in terms of application patents.

Mr Inoue said: "To us in Japan, it appears we are under the pressure of the US government."

Japanese officials point to a

Japan, which has built much of its technological prowess on the foundations of western science, is moving to broaden its scientific exchanges with the United States.

Under a pact signed last month by President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Japan will donate \$4 million to invite US scientists and engineers to the country, open research laboratories to Americans and boost the number of foreign researchers invited on scholarships from 28 to 200.

Washington has long demanded that Japan do more to balance the flow of researchers and information between the two countries as critics, particularly in the US industry, decry what they say has been the huge and valuable flow of scientific information from the US to Japan.

The Japan Centre at the University of North Carolina estimates that 15,000 Japanese students and researchers enter US institutions a year, five times the number of Americans going to Japan. Japanese technological exports rose to \$2.2 billion in fiscal 1986, and imports totalled \$2.4 billion, more than 80 per cent from the US.

However, he did admit his results with both ankle and finger joints were "very promising" and hinted that studies on attaching false legs to amputees were now being carried out too.

Titanium way to hear better

By Nick Nuttall

Titanium implants, used successfully to anchor artificial teeth and reconstruct damaged limbs, are being harnessed in Britain to transform the lives of the hard of hearing.

At the famous Ear, Nose and Throat Centre of Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary ten patients who cannot use conventional air conducting hearing aids because their outer ears are chronically diseased, severely deformed or—born from birth—absent, have been fitted with the titanium implants.

The metal's unique ability to mesh with bone means just tiny, three millimeter deep incisions into a head bone behind the ear are sturdy enough structures to support a hearing aid attachment.

Sound waves pass from the device down the titanium shaft directly into the mastoid bone which conducts the vibrations straight to the inner ear's sound receptors.

Not only does this bypassing of the malfunctioning outer ear mean a restoration of full or partial hearing but, because of the metal implant's slitting, hair can be grown over the device leading to enormous psychological benefits, says Radcliffe ENT surgeon Dr William Lund.

Although he has not yet tried titanium technology on patients whose inner ears are faulty, Dr Lund says Swedish researchers are "finding that



Improving the quality of life: the titanium option for those who cannot use conventional hearing aids

even when inner ear function is 30 decibels below normal you can still get extremely good results."

The Bone Anchored Hearing Aid is just the latest spin-off from the Branemark System developed by medical expert Dr Per Ingvar Branemark of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Twenty years ago during work on the healing activity of bone, the Swedish researcher discovered the oxide layer on titanium metal seemed to stimulate bone cell growth.

He realised this extremely tight bonding between metal and bone—which he called osseointegration—had enormous advantages over current implant technology.

Other metals or inorganic materials inserted in the body can result in scar and soft tissue forming which create unstable anchors for attaching

dentists are even encouraging severed nerves to regenerate by passing them through hollow titanium shafts.

Professor Thomas Albrektsson of the University of Gothenburg's Department of Handicapped Studies, said his team had already installed Branemark's hip joints in both human and canine volunteers.

"I do not want to indicate false hope but the results have been very promising," he said, adding that his team were now ready to enter clinical trials with Branemark style knee joints.

"Our aim," explained Professor Albrektsson, "is to construct and design a joint which can take the load of not just a senior person but the high workloads of younger people too."

Although he is keeping exact design details confidential he did reveal that in the double joints movement is being achieved with reinforced titanium working with plastic.

Professor Branemark, speaking from his Gothenburg Institute of Biotechnology only hours after installing a titanium ankle joint, also stressed it was premature to say his system was set to revolutionize orthopedic surgery.

However, he did admit his results with both ankle and finger joints were "very promising" and hinted that studies on attaching false legs to amputees were now being carried out too.

Some Scandinavian sci-

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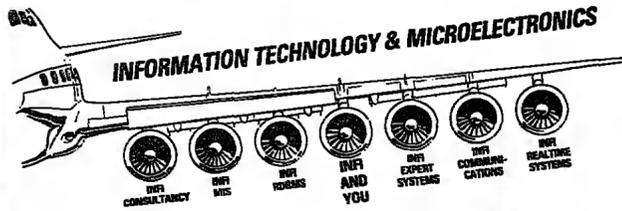
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EVENTS

- Comex 88 - Mobile Communications, September 13-15, Sandown Park, Surrey (01-778 5855)
- Personal Computer Show, September 14-18, Earls Court, London, (01-488 1951)
- Electronic Displays 88, October 4-6, Wembley, London (01-888 4466)
- Computer Animation Film Festival, October 11, Grand Hall, Wembley, London (01-888 4466)
- Amstrad Computer Show, October 21-23, Windsor Hall, WEX, Manchester (0625 87388)
- Expo Comm China, October 26-31, Beijing, (0727 33299)

TECHNOLOGY

Record help by CD

By Robert Matthews

Gny's Hospital in London is considering the use of state-of-the-art compact disc technology to hold its thousands of medical records in a move which, if introduced nationally, could save the NHS tens of millions of pounds every year.

Guy's would be the first UK hospital to exploit the technology, developed by Philips, the electronics company. Compact discs (CDs) 30 cm in diameter are used, each capable of holding hundreds of millions of words to store information.

A single such disc can hold the equivalent of 5 four-drawer filing cabinets. Even so, individual records, including X-rays, can be retrieved virtually instantly using a laser-powered disc reader, and either shown on screens or printed out.

A study carried out for the hospital by Doric Systems, a London-based consultancy specializing in the use of CDs for business, said that considerable savings could be made simply by eliminating the amount of time spent searching, sometimes in vain, for medical records in the archives.

Mr Patrick Stenfa, a director of Doric and one of the report's authors, said during the study "it became obvious that a lot of people were spending a lot of time looking for lost records". He said that the potential savings, if extrapolated nationally, amounted to as much as £25 million a year.

Further savings would be made through staffing levels being reduced in medical records offices, and increased efficiency brought about by the direct input of data from, for example, laboratory tests onto the compact discs.

In addition, the relative simplicity of the CD systems opens up the possibility of hospitals becoming central repositories for the records of local family practitioners' consultations.

Mr Stenfa said that hospitals could generate about £100,000 a year from offering this archive service.

The introduction of the CD archive technology would cost about £1 million per hospital, said Mr Stenfa, making leasing the most likely form of finance. Since compiling the report, Doric has joined with TSB Asset Finance to draw up suitable leasing arrangements for hospitals.

Spirit of glasnost reaches IBM

From Geoff Wheelwright in Brussels

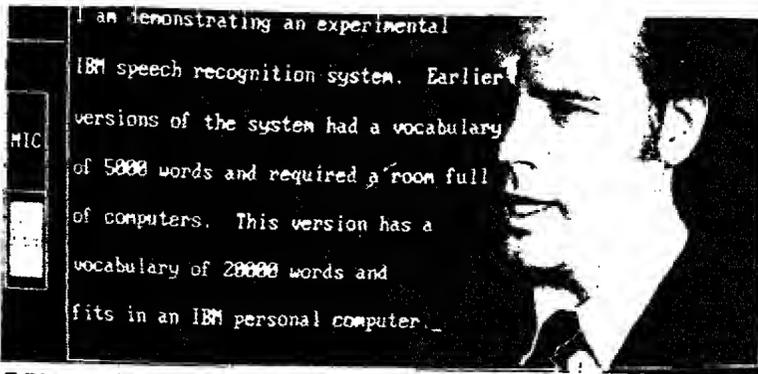
The spirit of glasnost is increasingly applying to IBM. At a conference here last week, the world's largest computer company maintained it was instituting a new policy of openness towards its customers, its competitors and the press.

Michael Armstrong, president of IBM Europe, says that the company is now keen to destroy many of what he claims are "myths" about the company and make customers think that IBM is as accessible to them as are their competitors.

For most IBM users, however, it is the company's efforts towards "openness" in a technical sense that will be of the greatest importance.

It has now applied for membership in the X/Open standards group - a body that is trying to develop an open and accepted standard for the Unix computer operating system.

IBM has become a founder member of the Open Software Foundation, a group dedicated to marketing a version of Unix that will run on computers from many companies, though it is in competition with another group that wants a different standard.



Talking to the customer: IBM now has a 20,000-word vocabulary for its system that lets you talk to a PC

Internally, IBM has set about establishing a framework for a software development called system-application architecture (SAA). The aim is to make it easier for software developers to write a single computer program that will run on all IBM computers. Customers may justifiably feel

this is something IBM should have been doing all along, but the concept of having a single environment in which software can run - from the smallest PC to the biggest mainframe - is new to the computer giant.

The pressures of an increasingly competitive market, may finally

force IBM to move away from the policy of locking in customers to isolated operating systems or hardware designs.

The IBM Personal System/2 range, launched last year, is crucial to this plan. The company hopes that eventually millions will have at least a base-level PS/2 of some kind

on their desks, and that this machine will then be able to act as an intelligent workstation for use by itself or over a network and as the entry point into the company's bigger computers.

With the Presentation Manager software IBM has recently developed with Microsoft, customers should have to become familiar only with the programs picture and graphics-oriented method of issuing commands and should be able to control even their use of the mainframe computers via a PS/2.

The fly in this otherwise smooth ointment is IBM's parallel commitment to the Unix operating system with its Aix line of computers.

IBM has also been exploring other methods to make it easier for people to use personal computers. These include touch screens and an experimental speech recognition system based on PCs which has a vocabulary of 20,000 words.

In short, as Mr Armstrong admitted, IBM has realized that customers now increasingly choose their software before hardware.

Any company without a strong foothold on the software side is going to be in trouble when that happens.

Video's TV change

By Cliff Roth

The film, *Innocent Victims*, to be shown on US television next autumn, will be the first such TV-film made with high-definition videotape technology, known as HDTV. The technology is starting to replace 35-millimetre film because videotape is easier to edit. But its real impact will be in improving the quality of the picture.

At present, HDTV can be used only in the production process because conventional TV sets are not equipped to receive it. CBS is conducting a test of the technology with *Innocent Victims*, a film about children with AIDS, and it will have to convert the videotape to the standard American TV format so conventional sets can pick it up.

The technology's ultimate impact on home TV will depend on the outcome of complex technological issues that involve the way improved TV pictures will be broadcast and the type of equipment to be used to receive them.

Japanese manufacturers have already announced plans to start HDTV broadcasts in Japan by 1991 with a system they call MUSE. European and US broadcasters want a system that can transmit HDTV signals so they can also be received on conventional TV sets. But even without clear plans for HDTV broadcasting, Japan's HDTV videotape production system continues to progress as a replacement for 35 mm film.

Conventional videotape technology has been used routinely for almost three decades to record soap operas, variety shows and situation comedies. But the superior texture of 35 mm film is generally preferred for most commercials, films and adventure shows.

Assessments of HDTV's picture quality range from "just as good" to 35 mm film to "almost as good". No one suggests that it is better. But to producers, HDTV's appeal is that blank tape is cheaper than 35 mm film stock and editing can be quicker. To directors, HDTV may have less appeal, except for creating electronic special effects.

Japan's production system, called Hi-Vision, has become a de facto standard for HDTV in Japan and the United States. It scans 30 frames per second, with 1,125 lines a frame compared to the 625 of Europe. In addition to detail, one of the main advantages of the HDTV system is that its wide-screen dimensions more closely match those of theatrical film.

Most movie screens have a ratio of width to height of 1.66 to 1. Conventional television has a ratio of 1.33 to 1. This means that a portion of nearly every feature film shown on TV or rented on video cassettes is chopped off from the sides to make it fit into the narrower TV screen.

But if they are to offer significantly more picture detail, HDTV sets must have bigger screens. Said William Glenn, director of the New York Institute of Technology's research centre: "There's not an awful lot of point in making small, 20-inch HDTV sets."

"Unless you sit very close, you can't see the increased resolution. Fifty inches is about the minimum screen size that makes sense."

Is system-designed software in sight?

By Darrell Ince

Automatic software design has long been the dream of software engineers. A recent American advance has brought it nearer reality.

Since the early days of computing, programmers have yearned for a tool that would process a specification of what a software system should do and produce, with little human intervention, the design of that system. Such a system would, at a stroke, eliminate 50 per cent of the resources required for software production.

The main hope over the last 10 years has been that the explosion in artificial intelligence (AI) technology would provide the methods and tools for automatic software design. The hope has not been realized. But a recent system, announced by Harvard Business School researchers, employs methods from an unexpected quarter: statistics.

The researchers at Harvard have been inspired by the work of the British architect Christopher Alexander who, in the early-1960s wrote *Notes on the Synthesis of Form*, a work on design.

Mr Alexander's thesis was that a good design, irrespective of whether it was of a refrigerator, a car or a township, was one in which the

components of the design were in relative isolation to each other.

For a software system this means that the components - known as modules - have few connections with other modules. If this is so, then a software engineer could program and test a module in isolation without keeping details of other modules in his head, considerably reducing the chance of error.

The system developed by the Harvard researchers is known as Capro. It is based on a branch of statistics known as cluster analysis. This is the study of looking at sets of objects and attempting to classify them into groups known as clusters. A typical example of the use of cluster analysis is of classifying patients into groups with the same mental disorder, from a large collection of patients with different symptoms.

Capro uses clustering to develop a system which has modules with minimal linkage. It does this by using statistical techniques to identify clusters of modules which are strongly linked together and then combining them into one overall module.

The user gives Capro a specification of the system to be

designed and after the clustering has been applied it produces a design which has a low complexity.

The work carried out at Harvard is significant for a number of reasons not least that it overturns the presupposition that software engineers have based their work on - that automatic software design can be carried out using only artificial intelligence methods.

Artificial intelligence technology companies are experiencing troubles; American AI software companies have been laying off lots of staff. British software houses, committed to AI technology, bemoan the fact that most of their business for AI applications comes in the form of small feasibility studies of a few months, with little solid business in terms of meaty projects and American workstation manufacturers who have relied on high AI-based sales have experienced a downturn in trade, and are now diversifying into the software engineering workbench area.

Capro provides evidence that even the hardest problems - assumed to be solvable using only advanced AI methods - are amenable to one of the mainstream mathematical techniques.

More skill wanted, but few pay rises

By Sean Hallahan

More secretaries are using personal computers in day-to-day work, but few have found their new skills have brought higher salaries.

A report, *Secretaries and Information Technology* by Manpower, the employment agency, says that only a minority of secretaries have won higher pay for their information technology skills, although some have benefited by utilizing their skills to move to better-paid employment.

The report, carried out for Lotus and based on interviews with 150 companies, gives some indication of how far the personal computer has penetrated business but has managed to slip by the attention of the person nominally in charge of computing, the data processing or management information services manager.

It claims that more than 50 per cent of secretaries now spend more than half their time on computers compared with 20 per cent of secretaries three years ago.

Though the main application software used by secretaries involved the humdrum and humble word-processing, there are signs that managers are passing on more responsible tasks to their com-

puter literate personal assistants. Four out of 10 secretaries now carry out spreadsheet and database tasks on behalf of their managers.

The report also points to a small technological elite among secretaries while at the same time showing that for the vast majority, the introduction of the computer technology has not markedly affected either their view of work or their career prospects.

In response to the question "Has the introduction of technology altered your career prospects?" half of those surveyed in 1985 said "Yes". In the current survey, fewer than one-third gave the same reply.

Similarly, the number of those who found their jobs were more stimulating and had more variety as a result of the use of PCs also declined.

The exception is a "secretarial elite", defined by the report as those using more than five software packages (11 per cent), those writing their own routines and macros (12 per cent), secretaries who have a say in the purchase of software bought for secretarial applications (15 per cent) and the one in five who were using

machines as a result of their own choice. This elite, the report argues, "possess a range and depth of skills which almost certainly should be exploited more fully than is possible in the secretarial role".

But the personnel managers interviewed revealed that only a quarter of their number paid more for a secretary with PC skills. Half found that it was relatively easy to recruit secretaries who already had experience of PCs.

The report concludes: "The controversy of the late-1970s and early-1980s about how word-processing operators should be compared with secretaries is a distant memory."

The thought often voiced by the founders of the personal computing business that every manager will soon have a PC on their desk does not seem to be true. The secretary, with or without a PC, continues to play a fundamental role in the running of day-to-day business and managers continue to pass work down to them.

The supposed magic of the personal computer is apparently lost in many organizations and who can wonder at it, if its use does not bring a higher salary?

JOBSCENE

By Caroline Berman

What happens to graduates interested in a career in technology left behind after the milk round - those who do not get taken on to special graduate trainee schemes by the leading computer manufacturers, software houses, management consultancies or users?

Despite the complaints of all the commercial recruitment agencies that there are not enough skilled people to fill the jobs available, the new graduates will find little offer from these sources. When it comes to taking on raw graduates, the agencies say that their clients just are not interested in talking people on who have had no commercial or industrial experience.

Christopher Fry, London manager at Lorien Computer Services, said his company gets a number of graduates who have not been picked up on the milk round, including a lot of computer science or business studies graduates who want a career in computers.

He explained: "Though they've been trained, they have had no online experience. Universities may have very good data process-

Dilemma for the no-job graduate

ing and IT installations and equipment, and they may even have developed some systems but this is not regarded as commercial experience.

"It doesn't make them marketable to us. The only way we can help is if certain blue chip companies like ICI are looking for graduates. But then ICI is likely to have already done the milk round."

A company with a major research and development project may want someone straight from university with no preconceived ideas, but the chances of such a job coming up are slim.

A graduate with an upper second degree in computer science or computer studies may be of interest to companies, but the trainee market is generally suppressed.

Mary Moorhead, divisional manager at Compuvac has similar problems with fixing up new graduates with jobs: "We get

graduates but it's rare that we can help them unless they've had industry experience as part of the course."

If a graduate has had up to the minute experience in artificial intelligence or expert systems at university, this may be useful, but even so would not make it easy to find jobs through recruitment agencies, she says. "We don't tend to help them find jobs. We advise them to contact the companies directly," she said.

Management consultancy is a very rich seam for graduates seeking a career in technology. Arthur Anderson took on 175 new graduates this year as information technology trainees.

They may have come from any discipline. But it is not easy to get on these schemes. Arthur Anderson had 4,000 applications for the 175 graduate-trainee places. "They must convince us of their intel-

Apart from having a sister who owns a personal server, what other technological experience do you have?



lect," said Liz Hopkins, recruitment manager at Arthur Anderson.

Graduate Appointments, a London-based specialist agency, is a better bet for raw graduates with no commercial experience. Though it is not a technical agency, it does recruit for high-technology industries, particularly in the sales and marketing areas. Maggie Law-

rence, manager of sales and marketing department, said: "We're primarily dealing with sales people. If they have the right personality for the job, we can help."

"They must be determined, outgoing, confident and motivated by money and success. They must be intelligent, and know that selling computers is a more sophisticated

business than selling encyclopaedias."

Ms Lawrence says that some companies which have been on the milk round have a specialist sales department which needs more sales people, and they might approach the agency.

There are several jobs as sales people for computer dealers, selling Compaq, Apple or IBM micro computers into vertical market places such as financial, retail or manufacturing areas.

Raw graduates are often taken on in a sales support role, rather than directly into sales. Starting salaries can vary from £7,500 basic plus car and commission to £10,000 basic plus car and commission. However, in eighteen months they could be earning around £18,000 but to earn that they need drive and enthusiasm, and have to work very hard.

It is far more difficult to get into marketing than into sales. A lot of organizations who would want marketing trainees will get all the graduates they want on the milk round. Most companies have a small marketing department compared to their sales department, and they have no trouble filling those jobs.

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Flying ring to save us from ourselves

A giant man-made ring, orbiting the earth, spraying oxygen and water into the stratosphere above highly industrialized countries, is the latest futuristic idea to protect the earth's ozone shield.

Its designers, a group of Soviet experts, believe the project could become a practical proposition by the year 2005.

Though the ozone layer surrounding the earth at heights of between 10 and 50 kilometres is less than three millimetres thick, its gases protect us from the dangers of solar ultraviolet rays, which could cause cancer, affect harvests and destroy aquatic life.

Scientists maintain that one way of stabilizing the ozone composition would be to introduce additional oxygen into the stratosphere.

This, they argue, could be done either by sending oxygen from earth (to be converted into ozone beyond the stratosphere) or by sprinkling the stratosphere with water, which, under the influence of ultra violet rays, would separate into hydrogen (escaping into space) and oxygen, which would remain behind.

The problem they faced was the current space technology only allows fuel propelled rockets to do this job. Yet, the tremendous volume of fuel needed to get the desired payload into the ozone area, (some estimates put the annual amount of required oxygen at about 10 million tonnes) would nullify any positive

results of the delivered oxygen.

Furthermore, the cost of such a project would run into thousands of billions of US dollars.

Clearly, a more efficient and economically viable method had to be found. Soviet space industrialists claim to have solved this problem by designing rocketless technology to do this.

They have called it Planetary Transport System (PTS) and say it is much less complicated, cheaper and ecologically safer than rockets.

Basically, they are propelling a huge wheel, with a diameter of hundreds if not thousands of kilometres, assembled on land or seabed trestles and then placed in orbit around the earth above the ozone layer. The structure

will consist of linear electric motors, mounted along a pipe-shaped duct, with a diameter of 20 to 30 centimetres.

Inside the duct, prefabricated sections of rotors would be assembled through special portholes along the entire length of the ring.

Electric magnets inside the duct would ensure that these rotors would always be suspended along an imaginary central line of the ring. When construction had been completed, all air would be evacuated from the ring, which would then be ready for its journey into space.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PUBLIC HOSPITALS SERVICE

JUNIOR, SENIOR AND PRINCIPAL HOUSE OFFICERS MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS WITH RIGHT OF PRIVATE PRACTICE

Immediate vacancies exist in several provincial city and small country hospitals throughout the State. These positions offer invaluable experience for Medical Officers seeking a challenge and the opportunity to enjoy a lifestyle quite different from that encountered in the United Kingdom.

Queensland enjoys a warm temperate climate with mild winters and sunny summer months, which makes for an easy relaxed pace of life with plenty to see and do.

Reciprocal registration arrangements exist for graduates with a primary degree in Medicine from Universities in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Assistance may be given with travelling expenses.

Further particulars and application forms are available from: The Agent-General's Office, Queensland House, 392/3 The Strand, LONDON WC2R 0LZ. Telephone: (1) 836 3224.

Applications close Monday, 25 July 1988.

A Senior Officer of the Queensland Department of Health will be visiting London to interview suitable applicants in the first two weeks of August.



HORIZONS

Michel Syrett assesses the value of secondment, a growing trend in business

Lending staff pays interest

Secondment has always been regarded with some suspicion by key professional and managerial staff. A recent report from the Centre for Employment Initiatives found that many organizations saw the temporary loan of an employee to another organization as, at best, a convenient way of easing older employees into retirement and, at its most cynical, a way of off-loading surplus or unwanted staff.

Now attitudes are beginning to change, says Andy Powell, director of the secondment programmes unit at Action Resource Centre, the main agency responsible for linking community organizations and interested employees.

Mr Powell points to the growing number of blue-chip organizations that regard secondment as an extremely effective means of developing fast-track managers and high-flying professionals. He has spent the past nine months speaking at leading business and personnel conferences promoting secondment as a mainstream training activity that brings quantifiable commercial returns.

Companies that take this view include Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury, BP, Shell UK, Barclays, the Prudential Corporation, the Stock Exchange, and a growing number of government departments, including the Home Office and the Training Commission, formerly the Manpower Services Commission.

At Prudential, for example, a manager was recently promoted into a sales function aimed at marketing pension policies to small businesses as a direct result of the cultural awareness and marketing skills he acquired while seconded to an enterprise agency. Another took over a welfare and medical function after an extended secondment to a project investigating drug abuse.

Prudential secondees range in age from 19 to 63 and in function from first-grade staff to middle-ranking managers. Secondees have separate job contracts covering the posts but remain Prudential employees, benefiting from all their existing rights and terms of employment.

"The match with the community organization is based on the job's requirements and the individual's existing skills," explains Jill Fowler, Prudential's community affairs executive. "There will always be core activities with which they are already familiar."

"But because a growing number of our secondments are directly linked to career progression, we also look for assignments that provide a tangible development of their talents. Because career progression at the Prudential covers a broad range of disciplines, secondees will always benefit from the experience on their return."

Secondees gain most when the host organization has the expertise to work

closely with the employer in linking assignments during the secondment to their future career needs.

Project Fullemploy is probably the best example of this. The charity improves the employment prospects of minority ethnic communities throughout England and Wales by providing training and supporting community initiatives.

Secondment has always featured strongly in this process. Fullemploy at present uses 20 secondees to support the activities of its 200 employed staff. All secondees undergo a systematic process, involving pre-assignment consultation, information visits, formal interviews, comprehensive induction and training - often at Fullemploy's expense - formal appraisals at regular intervals, and proper de-briefing.

Fullemploy's secondment manager, Sandra White, argues that secondment is a three-way exercise, bringing benefits to all parties, provided companies see the relationship as one of equals and not simply a one-sided community-minded gesture.

"We try to break down the secondment role into skills which will be of direct value to the secondee on his or her return to the organization," she says. "These could cover time management, crisis management, marketing and financial administration. Secondees will often face the challenge of motivating course

side of the desk - asking for support instead of responding to the needs of others," she said.

"I was the initiator, the manager of time, the seller of myself and Fullemploy. I have to say that those four months were the most testing time of my life, personally and professionally. I developed a renewed belief in my abilities and potential, and the most concrete result has been my promotion to a managerial post within public affairs."

The report by the Centre for Employment Initiatives found that, although secondment is on the increase and a growing number of employers use it for constructive reasons, the potential benefits are often wasted through poor planning, bad induction, mismanaged re-integration, and a failure to set clearly defined objectives.

Managers interested in secondment should ensure that their employment rights are secured, that their assignment is properly defined and that arrangements have been made for their return to the parent company. The secondment report from the Centre for Employment Initiatives earlier this year indicated that not all UK employers and host organizations meet the standards set by companies such as Prudential and Fullemploy. It confirmed that of the 122 companies surveyed, more than half (65) seconded staff to non-profit-making organizations. Of the 530 staff involved, the overwhelming majority (71) were in management positions. There were twice as many pre-retirement secondees as those in other categories. Male secondees predominated, and nearly all assignments were full-time, usually for periods exceeding one year.

However, John McRobie, one of the report's authors, feels organizations often waste the potential opportunities secondment provides through poor planning, administration and employee communication.

"Whether the secondees themselves are conscripted, volunteered for or find themselves involved for other reasons seems to have less effect on the eventual benefits than the manner in which both host and company treat them," he says. "Because they work in one organization and yet remain employees of another, they have, at best, the role of ambassador or, at worst, the status of refugee."

Further information: the Secondment Programmes Unit, ARC, CAP House, 9, 12 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HD (01-726 8987). Copies of the CEI report, Secondment Out, are available from the Centre for Employment Initiatives, 10a Gloucester Mansions, Cambridge Circus, London WC2H 8PA, at £7.95 (including postage and packing)



The Firm setting high standards in the field

members or working in close-knit teams made up of our own staff."

One secondee who benefited considerably from this approach is Elaine Mitchell, who swapped her role as personal assistant to the director of public affairs at Central TV for that of enterprise programme research officer with Fullemploy at Sandwell, West Midlands.

Elaine's task was to carry out a study of ways in which the private sector's involvement in Fullemploy's enterprise training could be expanded. "Suddenly I was firmly on the other

Saudi Arabia C.£40K HOSPITAL PROJECT DIRECTOR

Following the award of a major new hospital management contract, International Hospitals Group wish to recruit a well qualified and suitably experienced Health Service Manager for the top job in this project. Our client is the Royal Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the location is Jubail on the east coast and the hospital is a brand new 220 bed general hospital built and equipped to the latest International Standards.

The contract is for three years with married status and major benefits.

The successful candidate ideally will be a graduate with either a masters degree or membership of the IHSM and a minimum of ten years experience in hospital management. Previous experience in the management of a similar facility in the Middle East would be an asset. The Project Director will also act as Chief Executive of the hospital. Essential qualities include: excellent management and interpersonal skills, drive and determination, flexibility and patience.

Please write in the first instance to:

Amanda John, I.H.G., Stoke Park, Stoke Poges, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 4NS. Tel: 0753 73222. Quoting Ref. No. AF 114

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CHAIR OF NURSING

Applications are invited for appointment to a Chair of Nursing which will become vacant due to the retirement of the present holder, Professor Barbara McFarlane of Ulundi, on September 30th, 1988.

The Chair was established in 1974 and was the first Chair of Nursing at an English University. The Queen's Nursing Institute Chair of Community Nursing in the Department is held by Professor C.A. Butterworth.

Applicants should be professionally qualified, graduate nurses, capable through a proven record of excellence in research and teaching of providing academic leadership in Nursing.

Applicants (one copy suitable for photographic reproduction) giving full details of qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent to the Registrar, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, not later than September 5th, 1988. Please quote reference 104/88. Overseas candidates may apply by airmail letter in the first instance. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Applications are invited for the following posts:

THEATRE SISTER THEATRE STAFF NURSES

Theatre experience essential. Please forward a detailed CV to: The Director, as soon as possible.

MARGINTURN LTD

DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

Required responsible for the day-to-day running of a 60 bed Nursing Home. Car and accommodation provided. Salary negotiable according to experience. Apply to: Director, Mrs O. West, Sam Hill Grange, Tel: (0684) 293045.

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Enthusiastic RGN

Required, management training available, accommodation and car provided. Apply to: Director, Sam Hill Grange, Bursley, Glos GL20 6AD, Tel: (0884) 293045.

PRACTICE SRN.

Interesting and varied job in Sloane Street Polyclinic, starting mid-August 1988. Salary negotiable. 01-730 5119

COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATORS

The Institution of Electrical Engineers Savoy Place, London WC2.

The Institution requires Committee Administrators to handle the workload generated by a range of Professional Committees. Duties include acting as committee secretary (drafting agenda, papers and minutes) organising seminars, lectures, vacation schools and other activities initiated by the Committees. Some travel within the UK is involved.

Applicants, who should be graduates or equivalent, must be able to liaise with people at all levels and write clearly and concisely. These posts offer an excellent basis on which to develop an administrative career. Technical knowledge is not required. Salary will be according to age and experience, minimum starting salary will be £7,600. Benefits include a 35 hour week, flexitime, season ticket loan scheme and subsidised catering.

Please write or telephone for an application form to:

Personnel Department, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Station House, 11, Kingsway Road, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 1RJ. Tel: (0462) 53331

Senior Solicitor

Salary £16,686 - £17,898

This post forms part of a busy legal team each member developing individual specialities. A full personal case-load of advocacy and general legal work is supplemented by unaccompanied committee attendance and supervision of non-admitted staff.

Applicants must have two years' post admission experience. The post carries entitlement to essential user car allowance, car loan or lease, housing assistance and a no-cost relocation package.

Write to the Personnel and Management Services Officer for further particulars and an application form to be returned before 21st July, 1988.



Borough of Broxbourne

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR OWN PRACTICE?

NEIGHBOURHOOD SOLICITOR

£19,473-£20,694 + up to £6,000 Recruitment & Retention Package Ref: 270/835011

Bethnal Green Neighbourhood is looking for a Solicitor of three years standing to take on the challenge of leading the Neighbourhoods legal team.

You need not necessarily be experienced in the public sector but you will be dealing with complex planning and building agreements, Social Services issues and will have an innovative approach to highways and parking control.

Naturally the practice will encompass specialist knowledge of the various fields, but detailed knowledge of more than one would be an advantage together with proven managerial experience.

If you would like to discuss informally the above please telephone Bill Higham, the Neighbourhood Chief Executive on 01-739 4344 extension 3362.

Job applicant packs are available from the Neighbourhood Personnel & Training Section, Bay 306, the Neighbourhood Centre, 255-275 Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 or telephone 01-739 4344 or 01-729 6224 (ansaphone).

Please quote the job reference. Completed forms must be returned by 1 August 1988.

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has transformed local Government by decentralising service delivery and accountability to seven Neighbourhoods. What Tower Hamlets is achieving today others will attempt tomorrow. The commitment, energy, drive and innovation of staff are essential to our success.

Tower Hamlets is committed to effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy. Applications are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, religion, racial origin, marital status, disability or age.

All jobs are open to jobshare unless otherwise stated. The Council's recruitment and retention package could mean subsidised car leasing, a relocation package worth up to £5,000, bridging loan facilities, free life insurance, subsidised mortgage and travel allowance.

We are currently seeking to appoint

- (1) a Senior Assistant Solicitor/Barrister and (2) an Assistant Solicitor/Barrister - with or without Local Government experience. The posts offer a variety of work including, in particular, litigation in both Magistrates and County Courts in child care and trading standards cases. The postholders will also have the opportunity to gain or enlarge upon their Committee experience. Post (1) would suit you if you have some qualified experience; Post (2) if you are newly qualified or awaiting admission.

For further details phone Roger Wansborough (Bedford 228050) or write for details and an application form to County Secretary, County Hall, Bedford MK42 3AP.

Closing date: 25th July 1988

The Council is an Equal Opportunity employer and welcomes applications from members of ethnic minority groups, disabled persons and all other sections of the community.



BETHNAL GREEN neighbourhood

OUTSET Action on Disability

OUTSET is an expanding national charity committed to creating new opportunities for disabled people in training and employment. OUTSET's TFC (Information Technology Centre) was established 5 years ago in South East London and is unique in ensuring that disabled people are adequately represented in the Centre. The Centre is an MSC Approved Training Organisation and runs a YTS programme for 40-50 young people as well as a growing number of specialist full courses in micro-computers, computerised office skills and electronic hardware. Computer consultancy and data processing services are also available from the Centre.

ITOC MANAGER

The ITOC is looking for a dynamic Manager to lead a young team of eight professional staff.

THE PERSON

- We are looking for someone who has organisational flair, combined with imagination and entrepreneurial skill. The ideal candidate will have a background of training in a new technology environment as well as proven management and administrative experience. Good interpersonal skills, energy and a flexible approach are more important than particular experience or qualifications.

THE JOB

The manager will be expected to promote the development of new ideas and initiatives in computer training and services. The duties are varied and challenging, and will not suit someone who likes to know exactly what lies in store for the next day.

Salary: £14,241-£16,417 (including OLV) Pay Award July 1988. For more details about the post please telephone: Elizabeth James (Assistant Director) on 01-692 7141.

For an application form, job description and information pack, please contact: Linda Fowler, OUTSET Ltd, Suite 10, 18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1A 3BQ. Tel: 01-692 7141. Closing Date for applications: Friday, July 22, 1988.

OUTSET is an equal opportunities employer and actively encourages applications from people with disabilities.

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Recreation and Amenities Officer

£22,182 - £24,359

The current holder of this post is shortly to retire and the Council is seeking a Manager of proven ability to head the Recreation and Amenities Department. The responsibilities of the post include joint provision leisure centres; a municipal golf course; the Council's catering services; liaison with Parish Councils and Community Organisations; Tourism; Arts & Entertainment; and other leisure functions.

The post carries Chief Officer status and membership of the Chief Officers' Management Team. A block car allowance is payable and a generous relocation/reinstatement scheme is available. The Borough lies immediately south-east of the City of Nottingham and River Trent, the district having a commercial core, highly sought-after residential areas and villages set in the countryside. The Borough has both national and local recreation facilities whilst the entertainment and shopping facilities of Nottingham are within easy reach.

Further details and application form are available from the Personnel Officer, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5PE. Telephone: 0522 218971 ext 515. Closing date: 19th July 1988. Re-advertisement previous applicants need not re-apply.

COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (Non-Smoker)

Salary c£13,000 Superannuation Scheme Available

Applications are invited for this new post which has been created to assist the Executive Officer, primarily in organising examinations and education matters for the College.

Relevant experience would be an advantage, and the successful candidate will require administrative skills, flexibility and an ability to communicate with the medical profession and others.

Applications accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the Executive Officer, College of Ophthalmologists, Bramber Court, 2 Bramber Road, London W14 9PD by 29 July, 1988.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OXFORD

THE BURSARSHIP

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Official Fellow, which will become vacant on 1 January 1989. The Bursar is responsible for the formulation of the College's financial policy and for co-ordinating the administration of its investments, estates and buildings. The salary is currently £24,670 p.a. A house in North Oxford is available free of rent and rates, or a housing allowance (currently £2,610 p.a.) will be paid in lieu. The post is pensionable under U.S.S.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the President's Secretary, Corpus Christi College, Oxford OX1 4JF (telephone 0865-276739), to whom the application forms must be returned not later than 15 August 1988.

The College is an equal opportunities employer.

Senior Lawyer

(Ref: 501/BS) Up to £17,133 plus Car (with possible progression to £18,438)

An enthusiastic and capable Solicitor or Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives with experience of advocacy in planning inquiries and before the Courts, litigation and conveyancing, is needed to take on this challenging role. Salary will be appropriate to qualifications and experience.

Legal Assistant - Conveyancing

(Ref: 502/BS) Up to £10,722 (with possible progression to £11,796)

A conveyancer is needed to carry out a variety of domestic and other conveyancing transactions. For an informal chat please call Anne Jones now on 0932 84504, ext. 210.

Job descriptions and application forms from Personnel Office, Civic Offices, Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AL. Tel: 0932 845004, ext. 215. Closing date: 29th July, 1988.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedfordshire A Nuclear Free Zone

COUNTY SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT

Gain varied legal experience in Bedfordshire

Senior Assistant Solicitor/Barrister (up to £17,151 per annum)

Assistant Solicitor/Barrister (up to £13,812 per annum)

plus contract car hire scheme/essential user car allowance plus generous relocation package

The Legal Division of the County Secretary's Department is responsible for the provision of a full range of legal services to the County Council and its departments. This covers conveyancing, litigation and advice to committees on current and impending legislation.

We are currently seeking to appoint

- (1) a Senior Assistant Solicitor/Barrister and (2) an Assistant Solicitor/Barrister - with or without Local Government experience. The posts offer a variety of work including, in particular, litigation in both Magistrates and County Courts in child care and trading standards cases. The postholders will also have the opportunity to gain or enlarge upon their Committee experience. Post (1) would suit you if you have some qualified experience; Post (2) if you are newly qualified or awaiting admission.

For further details phone Roger Wansborough (Bedford 228050) or write for details and an application form to County Secretary, County Hall, Bedford MK42 3AP.

Closing date: 25th July 1988

The Council is an Equal Opportunity employer and welcomes applications from members of ethnic minority groups, disabled persons and all other sections of the community.

County Secretary

Salary to c. £37,000 (with possible further performance payment)

The County Secretary is Head of the Department providing Administrative, Secretarial and Legal Services for an organisation with a turnover in excess of £300 million.

Applicants should have an appropriate qualification (Administrative, Secretarial and/or Legal) and have held a position of responsibility with a large employer.

East Sussex offers an excellent working and living environment and the employment package includes a performance related pay scheme, possible mortgage assistance and leased car.

Further information and application forms are available from the County Personnel Officer, East Sussex County Council, Westfield House, County Hall, Lewes BN7 1AP. Tel. Lewes (0273) 481729 or 481263. Closing date: July 18, 1988. East Sussex is committed to equal opportunities.

01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

ESSEX MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE
COURT CLERK
 or Senior Court Clerk
 £12,198 - £13,998 + £243 fringe weighting + benefits (pay award pending)

Based in Harlow and covering the Harlow and Epping and Ongar PSDs, this post offers the opportunity to take, without supervision, all types of Court, together with oversight of pre and post Court functions. It also involves one or more aspects of office administration or finance, as necessary.

The senior grade calls for at least two years' post qualifying experience as a Court Clerk.

SUPERNUMERARY COURT CLERK
 or Senior Court Clerk
 £10,242 - £11,808 + benefits (pay award pending)

Promotion has created this vacancy, which is based in Chelmsford but means attachment to Courts across the county. This is to provide long term cover, mainly for staff absent while studying for their Solicitor's or Bar finals.

It is therefore an ideal post for someone seeking experience in a variety of courts with different working patterns. The successful applicant will probably be based in either Billericay or Southend for the first year.

In both cases we offer a lease car at advantageous rates, a generous relocation package of up to £4,000 plus full removal costs and mortgage subsidy. Starting salaries and grade will depend upon experience.

Essex offers excellent court experience, together with an enviable lifestyle close to the coast and to London.

Application forms and further details are available from the Clerk of the Committee (Personnel Section), County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. Tel: (0245) 492211 Ext 24101. Closing date: 22nd July 1988

City Engineer's
Cleansing Direct Services Manager
 Salary up to £20016 Post No. D301

The Council's refuse collection and street cleansing operations are currently being placed on a client/direct service organisation basis. We require a manager for the direct service organisation. The holder of this new post will play a key role in leading the D.S.O. successfully into the 1990's.

This challenging position will require considerable leadership, motivational and commercial skills which may have been obtained inside or outside local government. Experience in managing a large workforce in a service environment will be essential.

A fixed term contract, with the possibility of extension, is offered with a remuneration package including generous relocation allowances and a salary rising to £20016.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to deliver high quality public services, contact us now for further information.

A place may be available at The Workplace Nursery for employees with children 6 mths - 8 yrs old.

Application form (returnable by 18th August 1988) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Wellford Place, Leicester LE1 5ZG. Tel (0533) 549922 ext 7099.

As part of the City Council's commitment to an Equal Opportunity Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of their race, sex, age, marital status or disability. Disabled persons are guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced. Job sharing applications are welcome for all jobs.

Leicester City Council

Buckinghamshire Magistrates' Courts' Committee
Deputy Clerk to the Justices

The appointee will act as Deputy Clerk to the Justices for the Wycombe Petty Sessions Division, based at the Law Courts in High Wycombe. The total population for the division is approximately 141,000.

Applicants must be solicitors or barristers qualified under Section 26 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979 and must have substantial experience at senior level in the court service.

The salary scale is £18,465 - £19,740 p.a. Generous relocation package up to maximum of £7,000 and mortgage subsidy payable in appropriate cases. Car leasing scheme and free private health insurance available.

Application forms may be obtained from The County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Aylesbury HP20 1UA, telephone Aylesbury 322213 (24 hour answerphone service). For further information you may wish to contact Mr. P.J.M. Hamilton, Clerk to the Justices, on High Wycombe 36335. Closing date: 29th July 1988.

Borough of Havant
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR
 £14,205 - £16,740

We are looking for an able, enthusiastic, hard working Assistant Solicitor to join our busy legal section in the Administrative and Legal Department of the Council.

You will be offered a variety of challenging and administrative work giving opportunity for the exercise of considerable responsibility.

You will be working in modern offices in a district on the south coast between Portsmouth and Chichester, an area which offers considerable scope for the exercise of a wide variety of recreational pursuits.

You will be paid a salary within a range currently between £14,205 and £16,740 (pay award pending). The recruitment package also includes a generous scheme for removals and resettlement, housing support/mortgage subsidy, car leasing scheme, flexitime and subsidised staff canteen.

Previous local Government experience would be useful but is not essential and applications from recently admitted solicitors will be considered.

Disabled persons may apply as appropriate.

An application form and further particulars may be obtained from the Borough Secretary, Civic Offices, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX (telex Havant 0705) 474174 Ext 187/188 or 1893. Closing date: 22nd July 1988.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR
 Post Ref. CE.60
 Scale P.O. 6/7 £14,625-£16,329 per annum
 Full or Part-time

Have you considered the interesting and challenging variety of work offered by a career in local government?

We are looking for a keen and energetic Solicitor to fill this post in a busy Legal Section. There will be an opportunity to be involved in all areas of legal work undertaken by the Council.

It is an excellent opportunity to obtain practical experience whilst the postholder will be expected to undertake duties with minimal supervision.

The successful applicant will be expected to attend Committees, as appropriate, and as the second tier officer within the Legal Section, will be responsible in the absence of the Solicitor and Head of Legal Services.

Experience of or interest in new technology is desirable.

Applicants interested in part-time or job sharing will be welcomed.

For an informal discussion please telephone Ivy Stevens, Solicitor and Head of Legal Services on Redditch 64252 Ext. 3253.

For your application form and further details please telephone Redditch 63241, and leave your name and address and the post reference or write to the Personnel Manager, Town Hall, Town Centre, Redditch, Worcesters, B98 4AA. Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is the 26th July, 1988.

The Council has an equal opportunities policy and applications are positively encouraged. Applications of race, sex and disability. Creche facilities subject to availability.

Borough of Redditch "A Better Place to Work"

COUNTY DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT
HEAD OF TWINNING DEVELOPMENT

Applications are invited for this challenging post in the County Director's Department.

The County Council has an active twinning programme with developing links in the Soviet Union, China, Italy and France.

The post holder will manage all aspects of the programme with special emphasis on economic development and initiating trade links involving the Council's overseas partners.

Candidates should have excellent organisational ability coupled with promotional and marketing skills.

This is a senior post and the salary will be negotiable.

An essential car user allowance, car loan facilities and relocation package will be available in appropriate cases.

Applications will be particularly welcome from women, ethnic minorities or disabled people who are under-represented at this level in the Council's service.

Application forms and further particulars are available from: Mrs R. R. R. County Director, Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG. For further information please telephone Tony Chadbourne at Matlock 580000 extension 7321. Closing date - 23rd July 1988.

The Council's policy is that all people receive equal treatment regardless of their sex, marital status, racial origin, race, creed, colour, ethnic or national origin, or disability.

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A sound technical background in Estates and Buildings and engineering services areas and a professional qualification in a relevant discipline will be expected. The starting salary will be in accordance with experience and qualifications and will not be less than £25,000 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications should be sent to reach him no later than 18th July, 1988. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, the names and addresses of three referees and a statement of the particular contribution and expertise which the applicant would bring to the appointment.

SANDWELL MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE
WARLEY MAGISTRATES' COURT
TRAINEE COURT CLERK

Trainee grade up to £7,638 (scale currently under review)

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The post is supernumerary and subject to the Conditions of Service applicable to Magistrates' Courts Staff. Assistance with regard to relocation expenses will be given in appropriate cases.

Applications in writing giving age, education, qualifications and experience together with the names and addresses of two referees should reach the undersigned not later than 22nd July, 1988 marked "CONFIDENTIAL".

Stephen A. Horton, Clerk to the Justices, Law Courts, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 3BP.

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Salary: Scale 2/5 £6,396 - £9,473

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You will be involved in assisting with the operations on a large PRIME 9855 minicomputer which provides a wide range of services to the Highways Department. You will also have the opportunity to assist with systems programming tasks and gain experience in the use of microcomputers. Your other duties will include administrative support to the Department's computer section.

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Please quote reference number ENG/5307/72 when asking for forms which must be returned by 23th July 1988.

Highways and Engineering Department

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Applications (marked Confidential) giving full career and personal details, including the names of two referees, should reach me not later than Friday 22nd July 1988.

For an informal chat or further information, please telephone my Deputy, Mr. Bowler or the Principal Assistant, Mr. Johnston.

S.M. THEW Clerk to the Justices,
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Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7DX, telephones (0536) 410333, extension 214, and should be returned by 18th July 1988.

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Cast a fresh eye on Europe

Many solicitors still feel that the arrival of the European internal market in 1992 will not affect them. Francis Gibb says this attitude is understandable, but events may move more swiftly than most lawyers predict



The spectre of 1992 is slowly but surely impressing itself on the nation's consciousness. But for most people — and that includes lawyers — it still remains a rather distant date with uncertain implications. The European internal market threatens to take over where the Financial Services Act left off; solicitors may finally have to come to terms with the worst effects of the 1986 Act, usually after a short honeymoon period of belief that it had nothing to do with them. Yet 1992 is still seen by most as a matter for a few City firms with Paris offices.

Speeding up the process of breaking down barriers

The attitude is understandable. But events may move more swiftly than lawyers predict. A key step was taken last month when there was agreement in principle on the mutual recognition of diplomas by the Council of Trade Ministers in Luxembourg. This clears the way to enable up to 10 million professionals — lawyers, accountants, surveyors, actuaries, bankers — to practise in member-states without having to re-qualify. It is unlikely that the directive will be adopted before the middle of next year and probably not be into force until mid-1991.

Lawyers will be required to take a test to prove knowledge of local law, or opt for an adaptation period, and it seems likely that the host member-state — that is, the Law Society in the case of lawyers seeking admission here — can decide which. But it does in principle pave the way for easy transfer from one legal profession in Europe to another; at the moment, a lawyer would have to start from scratch and requalify in this chosen member-state.

According to Diana Guy, of Theodore Goddard, this is bound to have a knock-on effect for the internal structure of the legal profession in the UK. Mrs Guy, just appointed to chair a Law Society

working party on 1992, says: "We will have to make it easier for barristers to become solicitors, and for Scottish solicitors to become English solicitors. It would be completely illogical for someone from any member-state to be able to qualify easily as a solicitor while we maintain the existing restrictions on Scottish solicitors and members of the Bar." And increasingly, she points out, with the recruitment crisis in the profession, more and more firms are turning to Scottish solicitors and to the Bar for the quality recruits they cannot otherwise find.

It also raises the possibility that solicitors qualifying as French *avocats*, say, would find they had rights of audience in all the courts in France; but not — unless there is change on this — in the higher courts in England, the preserve of the Bar. Conversely, foreign lawyers qualifying at the Bar through taking a simple test would have greater rights to appear in the English higher courts than do English solicitors.

The mutual recognition of diplomas is just one of a number of linked measures where action to break down community barriers is speeding up. Another is on the rights of lawyers in member-states to establish themselves under their home title. Fierce controversy has raged for years over this: one view — promoted by a number of states, particularly France — is that a lawyer of one member-state should not be able to practise in another without becoming a member of the host state's profession.

The other view — taken by the UK profession and by the Dutch — is that a lawyer should be free, as now, to set up in another member-state and carry on doing "unreserved" work; that is, work not reserved by law to the profession of that country, and wishing to provide from branch offices a service to clients there.

A number of City firms — such as Lovell White Durrant, and Linklaters, have already expressed concern that if the view espoused generally by the "French" prevails, their branch offices in

Europe will find themselves working under the control of the local profession and in a far more restricted way than now. In France, for instance, they could not be able to have "employed" lawyers, nor operate under their firm's name. At the heart of the debate is the simple fact that — as Hamish Adamson, secretary of the Law Society's international committee put it, UK law firms are "now by far the largest exporters of legal services", in the sense that more English firms of solicitors have set up branch offices in member-states, chiefly Paris and Brussels. And, except for the Dutch, the others states are all basically "importers".

There are 17 English law firms — mostly all big City ones — with Paris offices and about eight with Brussels' offices.

Fresh attempts to reconcile some conflicting attitudes

English solicitors also have a presence in a number of other member-states. UK solicitors, who traditionally deal with a wider range of matters than their European counterparts, have moved much further into providing business and financial legal services than their opposite numbers.

A fresh attempt to reconcile all the conflicting attitudes and come up with some kind of compromise on this issue will be made at Strasbourg in the Autumn at the next plenary session of the Consultative Committee of European Bars.

This may all still be in the melting pot but lawyers here should waste no time. The internal market will bring changes, says Diana Guy, on which clients will need advice and firms would do well to start building up expertise.

Finally, she urges, lawyers must improve their language skills. Without at least enough knowledge to communicate, law firms — even with all barriers removed — will simply fail to compete.

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Paediatricians must work with others

Of all the millions of words given in evidence to the Cleveland Inquiry most are on their ephemeral way, but not before contributing to a number of aiding convictions.

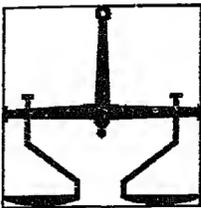
First, too much emphasis has surely been placed on the medical diagnosis of sexual abuse. Once consultant physicians diagnose it, it is as though the conclusion were written in stone. Others may not question or doubt it.

But physicians diagnose disease. A child who has been sexually abused is not diseased. Generally the experience will not have left any physical marks of injury. The damage will have been done to the child's emotions and psyche. Thus what is required is not a medical diagnosis but a broad assessment that considers the originating circumstance in the context of family history and family relationships and has regard to necessary action both in the criminal and the civil fields.

Inevitably such an assessment should not be undertaken in haste, in advance of all relevant inquiries, or by a single individual. The paediatrician will be an important member of a team, as may be the specialist police officer, social worker, forensic science doctor, child psychologist or child psychiatrist. But there should be a measure of discretion as to the composition of the team and its manner of working to meet the individual circumstances of each case.

Well tried professional relationships between experienced and sensible individuals offer stronger protection to children and families than any rules of practice. But in every case the guiding principle should be to remove the medical diagnosis from the centre of the stage and not permit it to be conclusive proof of child sexual abuse without wider assessment. The measured inter-disciplinary assessment of all the circumstances is most likely to avoid, on the one hand, the dangers of failing to recognize abuse screened by a family conspiracy of silence and, on the other, the danger of removing children from their families when abuse has not occurred or cannot be established.

Certainly one of the obstacles to facing such calm inter-disciplinary assessments has been the degree of disagreement and faction



LEGAL BRIEF

Mathew Thorpe,
counsel to the
inquiry, analyses
the lessons
of Cleveland

within the medical profession as to the significance of reflex anal dilatation.

A good deal of publicity has been given to the conflict in Cleveland between paediatricians and police surgeons on this topic. But there is an equally marked divide between paediatricians (experts in child health and care but who may have no greater knowledge of a child's anus than his big toe) and ano-rectal surgeons (experts in the construction and function of the anus but who seldom if ever see a child amongst their patients).

What is remarkable to an outsider is the degree of passion that enflames the professional dispute (and slows the pace of its resolution) and the predictability of the alignment of individuals. Search in vain for a paediatrician to share the rectal surgeons' certainty and vice versa. In the end the probability is that the mechanisms of the anus are insufficiently understood and until medical science advances further in this field there will be opportunity for faction to flourish.

Of course such medical issues are specialist in the extreme and emphasize the need for special training for all professionals working to assess and treat children who are or may be victims of sexual abuse. Standards of expertise will inevitably vary between the metropolitan centre of excellence and the shire where no special facilities exist. But that reality only emphasizes how important it is that those

who work in the outfield should have opportunities for training and retraining. Appropriate techniques for interviewing these children have been the subject of sharp controversy within the medical profession and critical review by the courts. In reaction, progressive techniques have been modified or discontinued. Such shifts and developments must be disseminated by refresher training.

That Cleveland will not recur is sure. Indeed it is extraordinary that it ever happened, for its happening depended on the fortuitous combination of a number of like-minded individuals in decisive roles.

Professionals carry their prejudices, convictions and passions into their expert field of work in some degree, however minimal. The effects of a crusading paediatrician will be countered by the caution of an experienced social worker. But Cleveland produced, fortuitously in key roles, individuals belonging to different professions all recently appointed and all sharing the same convictions.

Of course tribute needs to be paid to those in the field of child welfare who have been the pioneers and who have fought to draw public attention to the evil of sexual abuse of children, often in the face of disbelief and denial. But just as the wrongful conviction of an innocent person is a horror, so are the consequences of a wrongful finding of sexual abuse within a family.

Cleveland highlights those consequences and provides yet another example of the perpetuation so often illustrated in history; the higher the cause the easier seems the justification of evil or misguided means to the great end. Whatever the intervention, the disruption, or the fracture of family life, someone was quick to say that the welfare of the children demanded it. That repeated protestation stifled the question of where the interests of the children truly lay. In consequence wrongs were done which will not be suppressed and will not wither without public expiation. But it is vital that in the process vigilance for the safety of children and determination to protect them should not slacken.

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The author is now a High Court judge.

C. E. Heath plc v Ceram Holding & Co and Another

Before Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Neill [Judgment July 5]
A defendant had no procedural basis for an application for summary judgment where he had counterclaimed against both the plaintiff and his co-defendant but where summary judgment was sought against the co-defendant only.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by the first defendants, Ceram Holding Co Ltd, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Hirst (7th May 1988) of an application by Ceram to strike out an application for summary judgment made by the second defendants, Knoxville Investments Ltd.

Order 16, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "(1) Where in any action a defendant who has given notice of intention to defend - (a) claims against a person who is already a party to the action any contribution or indemnity; (b) claims against such a person any relief or remedy relating to or connected with the original subject-matter of the action and substantially the same as some relief or remedy claimed by the plaintiff; or (c) requires that any question or issue relating to or connected with the original subject-matter

of the action should be determined not only as between the plaintiff and himself but also as between either or both of them and some other person who is already a party to the action; then, subject to paragraph (2) the defendant may, without leave, issue and serve on that person a notice containing a statement of the nature and grounds of his claim, or as the case may be, of the question or issue required to be determined.

"(2) Where a defendant makes such a claim as is mentioned in paragraph (1) and that claim could be made by him by counterclaim in the action, paragraph (1) shall not apply in relation to the claim.

"(3) No acknowledgment of service of such a notice shall be necessary on the person on whom it is served having acknowledged service of the writ or originating summons in the action or is a plaintiff therein, and the same procedure shall be adopted for the determination between the defendant by whom, and the person on whom, such a notice is served of the claim, question or issue stated in the notice as would be appropriate under this Order if the person served with the notice were a third party and (where he has given notice of intention to defend the action or is a plaintiff) had given notice of intention to defend the claim, question or issue."

Mr Michael Briggs for Ceram; Mr John Chadwick QC and Mr John Mummery for Knoxville. LORD JUSTICE NEILL said the argument for the first defendant could be stated in three propositions: 1 The power to grant summary judgment without a full trial was a power conferred by statute and by the rules. 2 The court had no residual or inherent power to grant summary judgment. 3 The rules did not confer any power to grant summary judgment against a co-defendant where there was a counterclaim or could be a counterclaim.

The first defendant recognized that there was an apparent lacuna in the rules and that the situation was anomalous, but submitted that that was a matter for the Rules Committee and that the court should not be tempted to place a strained interpretation on the plain words of Order 16, rule 8.

It was to be noted that in Order 16, rule 8(2) reference was made to "such a claim as is mentioned in paragraph (1)" and that the word "claim" did not appear in sub-paragraph (c) of Order 16, rule 8(1). It might therefore be arguable that Order 16, rule 8(2) applied only to claims under paragraphs (a) and (b) of Order 16, rule 8(1).

However, his Lordship felt bound to reject that argument because it seemed to be implicit

Photographer's motive irrelevant to indecency

question whether or not an assault was indecent. Ad assault was an epithet of the offence being that of the person committing the assault. A photograph was a permanent matter and the question was whether the photograph was itself indecent.

In their Lordships' view, on the facts the correct ruling would have been that the only relevant evidence was the photographs themselves, and the correct formulation of the test for the jury was: 1 Was it proved that the defendant deliberately and intentionally took the photograph of the subject as disclosed by the photograph produced? 2 If so was it indecent?

The two things were different and on the question whether the photograph was indecent the jury had to apply the test as stated by the judge and as stated in R v Stamford ([1972] 1 QB 391, 398), of applying the recognized standards of propriety.

In reaching their conclusion as to whether the photographs were indecent the circumstances and motivation in which they were taken were irrelevant. Their Lordships were fortified by the terms of section 1 of the 1978 Act. It had been argued by the prosecution that the purpose of the Act was to prevent the exploitation of children and that

Mr Justice Hirst felt able to construe the words in rule 8(3) "such a notice" as meaning "a notice containing..." and that the counterclaim amounted to such a notice.

However, his Lordship could not agree with that construction. The critical question was whether the procedure set out in rule 4 could be used for the determination of the claim by the second defendants against the first defendants. That procedure could only be used if a notice falling within the description "such a notice" in rule 8(3) had been served.

"Such a notice" in rule 8(3) had to mean in any view a notice served in accordance with rule 8(1) and by the express words of rule 8(2), paragraph 8(1) did not apply and therefore a notice under it could not be served where the claim by the defendant could be made by counterclaim.

Rule 8(2) would seem to apply, a fortiori, where a claim was made by counterclaim. His Lordship could see no escape from the express words of rule 8(2). The route to summary judgment by rules 8(3) and 4(3) of Order 16 was closed. No other route was open.

The anomaly merited the attention of the Supreme Court Rules Committee. Lord Justice Kerr agreed. Solicitors: John Wood & Co; Booth & Blackwell.

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Carter's position has become untenable

I am ashamed to have been present at a moment unique even in the sordid history of professional football.

Two weeks ago, Lord Aberdare, chairman of the Football Trust (what is it?), gave a reception in the historic Speaker's House at Westminster in honour of the Football League's centenary. We stood there listening respectfully while Philip Carter, the League president, speaking in response to Lord Aberdare, looked forward to the League's second century, when at that very time he was party to plans to destroy the existing structure of the League in pursuit of television's big apple. He should be summarily expelled.

The moment he and David Dein, of Arsenal, became involved in negotiations with ITV, they should have resigned as members of the Football League management committee; or, at the very least, they

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

should have done so once the proposals had become public. If to have resigned earlier would presumably have revealed their plans. They have turned management into a term of abuse.

Gordon McKeag, the Newcastle United chairman, who was himself only last month elected to the management committee — in preference to Bobby Charlton — now cannot leap fast enough on to the ITV wagon as it heads towards the

mirage of rich new pastures; and to hell with those left behind.

They say that sport mirrors life: already-rich clubs are indifferent to lesser relations. Of what organization do Carter, Dein, Edwards and Scholier imagine their clubs are going to compete to be winners? Another ITV Game Show?

I am dismayed that John Smith, a man of some dignity, chairman of the Sports Council as well as of Liverpool, should be in collusion with the other four. Can Smith still be viewed as an administrator of disinterest?

There has for 20 years been a need for the streamlining of the League, the creation of a smaller first division — at present taking shape — and more regionalization of the outer fringes. I have long been firmly in favour of some form of European league, including our leading clubs; but only on condition that there remained a two-way



democratic passage in and out of domestic leagues.

What is reprehensible about the present move by five major clubs and their five acolyte supporters — who meet tomorrow to finalize the ITV "sting" — is that among other aspects they seem to take no account of the probability that Manchester City, Leeds United,

Middlesbrough, Coventry City and others may in a season or two become contenders, as champions of those left behind, for inclusion in the breakaway group. There appears, as yet, to be no provision for future movement between the opportunists and the abandoned.

It is ironic that in the midst of this chaos, the one voice of clarity is that of Gordon Taylor, the general secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association: a former Bolton Wanderers winger who alone seems to foresee destruction at the end of the rainbow. It was specifically to exclude Taylor as a candidate, I am reliably informed, that the Football Association's advertisement for a new general secretary stipulated candidates only over the age of 48.

There has been, for the moment, no voice of leadership from within the FA, where talk is equivocally of

having no right to refuse addition of a rebel league. Nor is real guidance from Graham Sellick to succeed Ted Croft, general secretary of the FA, presumably because Kelly, wearing his League hat, has whom he is supposed representing, his dissident or his loyalist also-ran.

I trust that the rebel 10 tomorrow be persuaded, by I and by Trevor Phillips, age, commercial director of the Le of the sense of accepting (casting offer, together with conceding by the League towards the leading clubs on the distribution of vision monies.

Whatever happens, all that within the League has been solved. It is difficult to see where, if the present League lives, a worthy new president be found.

May is sticking to his belief

By Michael Stevenson

Peter May, as chairman of the England cricket selectors, is under attack. After England's defeat by West Indies, the way ahead appears uncertain and there are calls for his head. He is charged, among other things, with being unwilling or unable to communicate and that his aloofness compounds this problem.

Full Edwards, the former Middlesex and England cricketer, has summarized his view of May's Press relations with the words: "No comment, but don't quote me!" Edwards is an extrovert, a showman and a great talker. May is none of these but as honourable and straight a man as was his bat during his playing days.

He has broad shoulders and has acquired a thick skin over the years but such criticism irritates and sometimes wounds. "I have bent over backwards to try to get good Press relations," he said. "I was criticized for not attending the Press conference after the Old Trafford Test but I didn't attend the conference after we won our third one-day match against the West Indies. No one seemed to mind that."

Micky Stewart, the manager, with whom May, as an old friend and colleague, has real rapport, is a lively talker and spent over two hours in agonizing post-mortems and assessment of problems after the heavy defeat at Manchester.

Toughest problem for Test captain

By Michael Stevenson

May, less obviously, is just as concerned. He sticks by his view that it was impossible to retain Mike Gatting, whom he likes and admires, when it was in the best interests of the game for him to go after allegations about his conduct at the team hotel during the first Test match. He also believed, two years ago, that David Gower, in his later matches, was not leading positively or dynamically but was just letting the game run, and that someone else had to be tried.

One of the toughest problems for a county or Test captain in modern cricket is that he is leading colleagues with whom he has grown up in the game and will therefore find it hard to employ that hint of benevolent autocracy, albeit to complete independence; that is crucial.

Any captain, to be a complete success, must demonstrate the qualities that made Brian Sellers and Walter Robins the leaders they undoubtedly were. Does one see leadership of this calibre during Test matches or county matches today? Has one seen it since Michael Brearley captained England?

May, who as chairman of selectors has travelled further this year in search of talent than ever before, has his own opinion on the state of English cricket: "The emphasis is really on the one-day games. Both batsmen and bowlers have forgotten the virtue of patience."

Unfailing courtesy and integrity

"Batsmen do not move their feet enough and try to run the ball down to third man playing with half a bat. Slow bowlers must fire it in flat with a bat/pad fielder, so that real, a right seems to be a thing of the past. The pitches are very poor generally and the county still play for the many overseas players."

"Look at Northampton. They have so many foreign players on their books or about to be on their books that a really promising player like Richard Williams has gone down several ranges."

"At the same time that players like Hick and Waugh and Vassie Akram are becoming great or even greater players in the county game, some of our county it does seem to me that there are a few selectors, plus the captain. "We have been given a brief which we shall fulfil for the time set. There is no question of resigning."

Many of us who knew May well during his playing days are sad to see him go. We prefer his old-fashioned, his great talent and his integrity, his unfailing courtesy and his integrity.

Edwards heralds approach of super league

By a Special Correspondent

The super league breakaway from the Football League loomed closer last night as Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, said that the 10 rebel clubs were determined to accept their £32 million offer from ITV in defiance of the League's preferred £39 million deal with BBC and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB).

Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, will outline the League's proposed peace formula to the 10 dissidents tomorrow, the same day they are scheduled to meet ITV.

Under the peace plan, the League's 20 first division clubs would be guaranteed an 80 per cent share of the League's income from television.

But Edwards, speaking for the rebels, said: "The 10 clubs involved have spoken among themselves again over the weekend and we will tell the ITV officials that their offer is acceptable when we meet them again on Wednesday."

"We are fully aware of what the consequences will be. What the League is offering is too little, too late."

Apart from Manchester United, the rebel clubs are Liverpool, Everton, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest and West Ham United. Southampton and Derby County are in the wings ready to join them.

In response to the suggestion that the Football Association could step in to prevent the rebels from setting up a super league, Edwards said:

"We don't feel we can be blocked by the FA on this. We have gone into all the possibilities and problems."

If the rebels go ahead with their plans, all the papers must be lodged with the FA by August 1.

The other campaign being mounted in an attempt to bring the rebels back into the League fold concerned the withdrawal of their share of cash from the pools companies.

The major clubs collect £50,000 each a season from the League's 12-year deal with Littlewoods and Vernons.

More important, the clubs would cut themselves off from substantial grants from the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, which is financed by the pools companies and which since 1975 has contributed £35 million towards safety and improvements at League grounds.

The rebels would also turn their backs on help in meeting police charges. The first division of the League accounts for £800,000 of the total annual police bill of £1.5 million, and clubs receive £500,000 assistance from the Football Trust.

If the top clubs either resign or are expelled from the League, the Football Trust would almost certainly use the cash, which comes from Spot the Ball, to help the game at grass-roots level.

The financial loss might not worry the top five clubs, as they will collect at least £900,000 from ITV. But the other breakaway clubs are guaranteed only £550,000 from the deal. That would be severely diluted by the loss of all help from the FGIT and the Football Trust.

All 44 first and second division clubs are due to meet in London on Friday. The League will propose at the extraordinary general meeting next month that first division clubs be allocated 80 per cent of the income from a BBC/BSB deal.

If that was accepted and the clubs also reversed a decision at the annual meeting to deny teams compensation to cover lower crowds at live televised games, the League could still survive in its centenary year.

There was further concern over a super league from the Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen. Members of the association, at their annual conference in Harrogate, said they were worried about the possible break-up of the League. They realized the future of their association was "inextricably linked" with that of the League and they voted unanimously to stay loyal both to FA and the League.

Edwards wants ITV deal



Edwards wants ITV deal



In relaxed mood: Tony Jacklin and Barbara Nicklaus at Lytham St Annes yesterday (Photograph: Peter Lomas)

Ballesteros turns to his video for inspiration at the Open

By Mitchell Platts

Severiano Ballesteros took a sentimental journey along memory lane yesterday and it led him to confess that it was a miracle that he won the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes in 1979. Ballesteros has, over the recent weeks, watched several times the video of his first major championship victory in the hope of receiving encouragement.

Yet it was not until he reconnoitred the course for the first time since that emotional win that he actually shook his head in absolute amazement. "I must say the way I won was a miracle," he said. "But it was nice to play the course again. I have tremendous memories. I re-

called, especially over the closing stretch, every place, every shot, every putt."

Ballesteros cannot be relied upon, however, to offer such an entertaining repertoire of shots for the spectators watching the 117th Open which starts on Thursday. Instead his intention is to remain on the straight and narrow. That is how he sees the curtain coming down on one of the most unproductive chapters of his career.

"In 1979 I had no game plan," he explained. "I just teed it up and hit it. I'm still as aggressive as I was but experience makes you play more conservatively. I try to manage my game so that I play the course the way it is meant to be played."

"Remember I'm nine years

older. I think I am a better player, tee to green. My swing is more upright. My game is more controlled. My putting stroke is no different now to how it was in 1979. The only difference is that the ball does not seem to fall into the hole so often for me."

Ballesteros does not need reminding that it is now four years since he won a major championship. "I'm 31 years old and I have 10 good years ahead of me to win at least one more," he said. It is the talk of a superstitious man who would prefer to allow events to unfold. Yet one senses that it would take only a victory here on Sunday to trigger another sequence of spectacular successes.

Instead he fights shy of

offering excuses. Some observers claim that the ball in the water at Augusta in 1986 scarred his nerve and his game, others that the putt he missed in the play-off the following year diluted his confidence.

Then there is the theory that he cannot win a major with his brother as a caddy. For the first time since 1984 he has a professional caddy, Ian Wright, by his side again at the Open.

What bothers Ballesteros most is taking the club back from the ball. He has admitted that, to him, it is the hardest part of the swing. It is not like having the dreaded yips with the putter but it is a problem which he is finding harder than ever to overcome.

Watson sees himself as value bet

By Mitchell Platts

Tom Watson, furious with the thought of becoming the forgotten protagonist of championship golf, yesterday registered that dismay following an encouraging practice session at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

He said: "I don't like struggling. I don't like the frustration. I don't like it that the bookmakers over here have me as an outsider."

Then Watson, who has been trying since 1984 to equal Harry Vardon's record of five Open championship triumphs, uncharacteristically revealed that he is prepared to wager his own money on winning this week.

"I am not prepared to say how much I will stake," he said. "What I do think is that the odds against me are generous and that the best thing I am doing right now is putting quite a lot better."

Watson, who has been supported by a variety of odds, up to 33-1 with Coral, has refined his putting stroke and his belief in it was endorsed by Lee Trevino.

"I've had a typical hacker's stroke," Watson said: "It can happen to anybody. Now I've moved my hands forward, shortened the backswing and I'm accelerating through the ball like I once did. That was always my stroke. Short and pop it."

"What went wrong? Age is a factor. When you get to 38 your hair gets thinner and your brain gets thicker."

"Perhaps I should have read my own book on putting. But I'm back on the road to confidence and Lee agrees. Of course it is not simply technique. You've got to have guts, lots of guts, to hole the putts that win championships."

Watson won the Open Championship in 1975, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1983. He has also captured the Masters twice and the US Open once. Even so, he has not been the same force since his approach shot scuttled over the Road Hole Green at St Andrews in 1984 and ahead of him Severiano Ballesteros holed out on the 18th for the Open title.

This time, Alfie Fyles, Watson's caddy for all of his five Open wins, will not be at the American's side. Open qualifying, page 45

Rushton relinquishes cycling chairmanship

By Peter Bryan

Alan Rushton, organizer of the Kellogg's Tour of Britain and the Michelin city centre championships, confirmed yesterday that he has relinquished the chairmanship of the British Cycling Federation's Professional Racing Committee.

"It was a voluntary act on my part," he said, "and I was happy to nominate my successor, Scotsman Gerry McDaid." Rushton remains a member of the committee.

His remaining key role as an administrator in the sport is that of chairman of the Professional Cycling Association.

He has already offered to step down from that post, provided that he remains on the PCA's five-strong board until the annual meeting in October.

Rushton's business interests as managing director of Sport For Television, a company organizing and selling professional cycling to television, are considered by some members of the PCA to conflict

US coach resigns

By Peter Bryan

Bela Karolyi has resigned as the head of the United States gymnastics delegation to the 1988 Olympics because of rules restricting his access to the floor during competition.

Karolyi, who coached Nadia Comaneci and Mary Lou Retton to Olympic gold medals, has said he should be allowed contact with his gymnasts during practice and competition in Seoul.

Mike Jacki, executive director of the US Gymnastics Federation, tried to get Karolyi access to practices and a seat near the floor for the competition. Jacki added that he would not accept his resignation.

Graham bout

Sumbu Kalambay, the Zaire-born Italian boxer, will defend his World Boxing Association middleweight championship against Doug de Witt, of the United States, in Italy in October. He will then face Herol Graham, the No. 1 challenger.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Evert missing

Chris Evert, who has been forced to withdraw from the Virginia Slims of Newport, in Rhode Island, America, where she was top seed, is unlikely to play again before the US Open that begins in eight weeks' time. A spur of bone in her heel has kept her in crutches, but she is reluctant to face surgery so late in her career.

First choice

Marc Bouet, the France skipper of Kirlo, chose the correct sails for heavy-weather condition in the first day of the European six-metre yachting championships in Falmouth bay, and won the race after leading from the start.

Untried spin

Nigel Thompson, the English spin bowler, is the only new sign in Ireland team to meet Wales at Malahide on July 17 to 19. He takes over from Michael Halliday.

Cup venues

The neutral bowls venues for the NatWest Bank Middleton Cup quarter-finals on July 23 are: Leicestershire v Northumbria at Hull Kingston, Norfolk v Lincolnshire at Baker Perkins, Peterborough, Somerset v Hampshire at Bradford-on-Avon and Middlesex v Wiltshire at Oxford City and County, Northants.

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Benn is warned about BBC's license rules

By Peter Bryan

Nigel Benn, the unbeaten middleweight, has been warned by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) that he runs the risk of losing his licence and his Commonwealth championship if he allows unlicensed people to manage his affairs.

Benn, who is unbeaten in all his 18 contests, has issued a writ against Frank Warren, his former manager, who has said that he will not box anywhere without his clearance.

Ambrose Mendy, the chairman of the recently-formed World Sports Corporation, has said he is now handling Benn's career, and that he would be announcing details of his next contest within a fortnight.

Benn's case with Warren is sub-judice, but Mendy said: "We have the finest legal advice available. The matter is in their hands and Nigel is completely free to box."

"He has had a two-week break and starts training again tomorrow for a specific contest. I can't say yet where it will be or against whom, but

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